

THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 23 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 27 november, 2003



SHAWN BENBOW

FIGHTING THE POWER Political activist and Public Enemy frontman Chuck D discusses peer-to-peer file sharing, racism, and American corporatism at the Myer Horowitz Tuesday night.

Chuck D discusses future of hip hop, American administration

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

Keeping his audience entertained for over three hours with hilarious quips and vitriolic observations, political activist and Public Enemy frontman Chuck D spoke to a full Myer Horowitz Theatre on Tuesday night.

Holding a self-described "vibe session" as part of the Students' Union's Revolutionary Speakers Series, Chuck D discussed everything from his adamant support for peer-to-peer file sharing to the current political administration in America.

"It is definitely a pleasure to come

here to Canada and talk to some intelligent minds outside what I call the USSA," he announced shortly after walking on stage. "Up here, when you look inside America, you seriously have to say, 'those motherfuckers are going crazy.'"

"Americanism is pimping. You know how I know that? Because I know you feel like second-class citizens many a time when you feel the radiation of that radio-TV-movie nation. But at least here in Canada it's all happening below you, kind of like a bowel movement."

"America: run by a bush, a dick, and a colon," he concluded to uproar-

ous laughter.

Chuck D went on to condemn American television networks MTV

"It is definitely a pleasure to come here to Canada and talk to some intelligent minds outside what I call the USSA."

CHUCK D, POLITICAL ACTIVIST, PUBLIC ENEMY FRONTMAN

and BET for trivializing the messages rap and hip hop used to carry.

"A musician should do what they do because they love it and because they're passionate about it, not because there's a price tag on them. That's what hip hop has gotten away from," he explained. "Once money becomes the thing people go after, the passion becomes defaulted. People say their passion is money, but I say, if you're passionate about money, become an accountant or a stockbroker."

He also criticized the TV networks for condoning gangsterism. "Before they used to tell young people to stay off the streets, and now BET is

endorsing it. There's even shootouts in Toronto now. Where did that come from?"

According to Chuck D, the popularity of gangster rap has led to a new phenomenon: "the collegiate thug." "We have a serious problem: suburban kids talking gangster. What the fuck is that?" he asked. "Once upon a time, corporations used to reflect black folks. Now they feel bold to get behind black culture and dictate it."

He called the corporatization of black culture "good old-fashioned American racism."

PLEASE SEE CHUCK D • PAGE 2

Multi-year tuition proposal defeated by SU

CAITLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

The multi-year tuition proposal offered to the Student's Union by the U of A administration was soundly shot down by Council last night with a broad margin of 23 to six.

After weeks of negotiation, Provost Carl Amrhein made his final offer on 18 November, presenting the SU with a number of incentives in exchange for two years of maximum tuition increases.

Included among these incentives was the opportunity for the SU to work in tandem with University administration and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) to campaign for greater postsecondary funding from the province.

The deal also gave the Student's

Union President a seat on the U of A's Executive Planning Committee (EPC), and included a provision stating that, were the U of A to receive greater government funding, a portion of the increase would be directed towards decreasing tuition.

"I think we have done the students a service by exploring the issue. We also gained some credibility from the people in University Hall."

MAT BRECHTEL, SU PRESIDENT

Up until the last few weeks, policy

restricted the SU from pursuing anything other than a tuition freeze. In light of the proposed multi-year deal, Council voted for a motion calling for "the lowest plausible tuition" for the 2004/05 and 2005/06 academic years.

"I think we have done the students a service by exploring the issue," said SU president Mat Brechtel, who voted against the deal offered by the administration.

"We also gained some credibility from the people in University Hall. They were open to discussing some of the issues that at the beginning of the year they weren't open to discussing, because they found Council to be reasonable in exploring every possibility ... But at the end of the day, we don't gain a lot of benefits."

PLEASE SEE MULTI-YEAR • PAGE 2



SHAWN BENBOW

RELIEVED Business councillor Steve Smith was against multi-year tuition.



10 Singing frogs, cats from Hell, and leprechaun gold. Totally Christmas and totally scary. Find out how Xmas (or "Life Day" if you're wookie!) is the new Halloween in Features.

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Outside

Thursday Going for a hike on Mount Catmore; High=11, Low=-14.
Friday Visiting the Lincoln Catamount; High 0, Low=-15.
Saturday Yelling at your kids in the Grand Canyon; High=-2, Low=-14.
Sunday Climbing the Statue of Carberry; High=-4, Low=-19.
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

Tragedy struck the University of Lethbridge when fifth-year Paul Blaskovits was murdered outside a nightclub. Blaskovits, aged 23, was the captain of the Pronghorn's basketball team. The Athletic director was unable to comment because the police were still sorting out the details, but he noted that there were several different stories going around. The police did say that no weapons were involved and that Blaskovits died of a head related injury. Twenty-one-year-old Dane Robinson was charged with second-degree murder.

1990

Oh no!

That's right folks, this is the last "real" Gateway of 2003. Keep an eye out for our "special" issue on Tuesday, and please don't forget about us in January. Please!



14 Hey! it's our last issue and we have heaps of delicious, chewy, mouth-organising goodness in the A&E section. There's also lots of free stuff, so come buy for movie tickets.

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 27 November, 2003
volume XCII number 23

Published since 21 November, 1910
Circulation 10000
ISSN 0845-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (CSJS), a student-run, autonomous, apolitical not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a Canadian University Press.

comments

Comments, concerns, or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be first sent to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors, beyond that, appeal to a non-partisan Society Ombudsboard. The rules of the Board of Directors and the Ombudsboard can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 35 and Linux. Adobe Acrobat Reader, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Photoshop CS are used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Helvetica, Arial, and Times. The Gateway's pages of choice are CVC and The Legend of Zelda Link to the Past.

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American consumerism 'slavery,' says Chuck D

CHUCK D • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They're turning everyone into consumers, which is just another form of slavery. They have manipulated the image and perception of an entire people, and people believe the projection of these images. Corporations make black people purchase their present, disconnect their past, and make their futures blurry."

Chuck D concluded his talk with a look at the importance of awareness and education.

"What's happening in the United States is the endorsement of dumb-assification. It's either sense or common nonsense in America, but intelligence will save you. When you leave here, I want people to leave with their own minds, because that's what college is all about. They're run out of land on this planet to seize and take, and the real estate of the new millennium is your mind."

"Either you're going to be dumb in

America or globally smart and part of the human race. We want to be judged by our character, not our characteristics."

"They're turning everyone into consumers, which is just another form of slavery. They have manipulated the image and perception of an entire people, and people believe the projection of these images."

**CHUCK D,
POLITICAL ACTIVIST,
PUBLIC ENEMY FRONTMAN**

Proposal meant giving up a 'core value,' says SU President

MULTIYEAR • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Brechtel agreed agreeing to the proposal meant giving up a "core value" in exchange for minimal gain.

Other councilors expressed similar sentiments.

"I will not sacrifice my ideals for the mediocre, bottom-of-the-barrel deal put before us," said arts councilor Heather Wallace. "This deal is an insult."

Councillor Alex Abboud, however, was in staunch disagreement.

"Taking the moral high ground for the last twelve years has proven to achieve no results," he argued. "The only way we're going to achieve results is by shifting the focus of what we do."

He argued that the SU should go after "a bigger piece of the pie," and affect the minds of voters in the province rather than fighting with the administration for decreased tuition, which they are unable to offer as a result of insufficient funding from the province.

Undergraduate Board of Governors representative Roman Kotovych also supported the offer.

"Voting in favor of multi-year or voting against it doesn't necessarily speak to ideals," he said, arguing that the vote ultimately came down to a matter of strategy for reducing student tuition.

"The reason I voted in favour was

essentially because we would still have been able to mount external campaigns, we would still be able to talk to the public about issues concerning quality and accessibility, to go to the government and hopefully get increased base operating funding," said Kotovych. He said the SU would have received better representation on the university level as well by participating in the EPC.

"I will not sacrifice my ideals for the mediocre, bottom-of-the-barrel deal put before us. This deal is an insult."

**HEATHER WALLACE,
ARTS COUNCILOR**

Councillor Steve Smith opposed the concept of multi-year from the start, taking a much different perspective.

"In short, I thought we were giving up far more than we were getting from the proposal," said Smith. "We were giving up what I think has been acknowledged as our greatest media tool, the annual tuition decision, which the media likes to cover. We were also giving up our moral authority to some extent in accepting a maximum tuition increase."

U of A researchers to look at effect of society on obesity rates

HEATHER RITZER
News Writer

Dr Kim Raine says his research team is going to "change the world" through their study of the effects of environment and society on obesity in North America.

Raine, an associate professor of agriculture, food and nutritional science, and her team of researchers recently received a \$1.5 million grant to study the socioeconomic factors affecting what she calls the "obesity epidemic" currently sweeping the continent.

Alongside Raine, who is a nutritional sociologist, her team consists of a physical education behavioural epidemiologist, a social psychologist, a nutritionist from a background in anthropology, and a political scientist who will be primarily concerned with policy analysis. The team's research will focus on societal factors that affect obesity rather than individual factors like genetics.

According to CBC, nearly 50 per cent of Canadian adults are overweight, and approximately two-thirds of American adults are overweight.

"While lots of things have changed in the last 20 years, one thing we know is that genetics have not," said Raine. "What we are trying to do is examine what has changed in the social environment."

Raine believes that focusing on society and the environment is important because it is a significant factor in the prevalence of obesity. She also believes that such a focus will help to remove some of the stigma against obese people.

"One of things we want to change

is the attitude of blaming the victim. We have created environments that are really pushing people to over-consume. Right now, over half of our population exceeds healthy weight standards. I think we need to create an environment where the healthy choice is the easy choice. I want to remove the blame from the individual so that we don't stigmatize the individual."

The major focus of Raine's research is prevention of obesity rather than treatment. Raine points to the anti-tobacco campaign as a good model to follow to prevent the obesity epidemic from spreading.

"I actually think that the tobacco campaign is a good model, and it gives me hope."

However, the shift in awareness takes time. "The change didn't happen overnight," said Raine. "It was a gradual evolution, and I think we have seen a gradual devolution in terms of food."

Raine believes corporate responsibility would help increase awareness and cites the hot coffee lawsuit with Macdonald's, in which a woman sued the corporation after burning herself, as an example of how public pressure can affect companies.

"They put a warning on their coffee that it might be too hot since that lawsuit. Even having to show the nutritional content would be a step in the right direction," she explained.

No matter the outcome, Raine looks forward to the research she and her colleagues will conduct.

"I still have some of that young optimism in me," said Raine. "It's going to be really fun to find out what's going on, to really delve deeply into the underlying determinants [of obesity]."



BRANDAN PROCI
FIGHTING OBESITY Dr Kim Raine, member of a U of A obesity research team.

STREETERS

There are only five more days of classes!
What are your plans for the Christmas break?



Stan Dyfer
Food &
Nutritional
Sciences IV



Harpreet Hayer
Special Student I



Kyle Goertzen
Arts III



Fancy Poltras
Arts III

I guess I will probably go back to my good ol' hometown, Olds, and hang out with my buds. Oh, and I will probably look for a job, because I am graduating this year so I will probably do a little of that too.

Rest, live here and I am just going to relax and do nothing and spend time with my family. We don't celebrate Christmas, so it's just a time to relax and be together.

I'm going to be working a lot. I work at Red Robin, Second Cup, and I do a tour for people. I might be going to Saskatchewan to visit my grandparents.

I am probably just going to work a few days at a real estate agency and then spend some time with my family here in Edmonton.

Compiled and photographed by Cosanna Preston and Matt Freher

Palestinian conference killed by U of T

LESLIE THRIES
The Variety

TORONTO (CUP)—A Palestinian rights coalition at the University of Toronto is protesting what they are calling the university's "blatant trampling on students' right to organize."

Al-Awda, the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, booked space on campus for the Toronto Palestinian Solidarity Conference, which was to take place last Saturday and Sunday. On Friday, organizers received a call from Student Affairs saying their booking had been cancelled.

The conference had a six-point political basis of unity that conference participants must support in order to attend.

The administration brought up two points they specifically objected to: unconditional support for the Palestinian right of return and the principle that a two-state solution is not a viable option for the Palestinian people.

According to Susan Bloch-Neville, a university spokesperson, the conference's basis for unity was exclusionary and therefore the university delivered an ultimatum: either abandon the basis for unity or abandon the booking.

Conference organizers felt this basis of unity would ensure a safe space, and were unwilling to compromise.

According to Hazem Jamjoum, U of T Al-Awda and Arab Students Collective member, they felt that yielding to the university's demands would set "a horrible precedent for all other

student groups, because the university would be able to dictate the conditions under which [groups could] organize."

Mughir Hindi, Canadian Chair of Al-Awda, emphasized that no students had objected to the conference and that Student Affairs was succumbing to off-campus pressure.

Hindi said the university has refused to provide them with anything in writing.

"I don't need U of T to acknowledge that I have a right to return—I will return. This entire week will be hell for [U of T Student Affairs]. We will have our conference."

RAFEF ZIADAH,
U OF T PALESTINIAN REFUGEE

One of the major off-campus groups opposed to the conference was Jewish group B'Nai Brith Canada, who, in a press release, accused the group of "endorsing all forms of violence including terrorism."

Organizers and would-be participants gathered at noon on Saturday, as speakers from various organizations stepped onto the soapbox.

"The basis for which they banned us is all bullshit," said Jamjoum.

Hindi delivered the message that "ultimatums one hour before five o'clock do not work," and said it was unacceptable that U of T would not provide them with a safe space. He "leaves it now to students to speak up."

A representative from the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty explained that her group hopes to make their relationship with Al-Awda a strong one, especially after witnessing this "overt cancellation that happened in a very underhanded manner at the last minute."

Rafeef Ziadah, a Palestinian refugee, said that the cancellation shows "how scared shitless they are of us gathering and organizing."

"I don't need U of T to acknowledge that I have a right to return—I will return," cried Ziadah. "This entire week will be hell for [U of T Student Affairs]. We will have our conference," said Ziadah.

The conference would have included sessions on the refugees' right to return, the current situation in all of historical Palestine, women's involvement and solidarity with feminists, and queer activism.

Sunday would have been dedicated to a session on multiple strategies for resisting what Palestinian conference organizers called the "Israeli apartheid."

Conference organizers are demanding an apology from U of T, as well as compensation in the form of a comparable space in which to hold the conference.

ROCK ANNOUNCES \$40 MILLION FOR QUÉBEC UNIVERSITIES

MONTREAL (CUP)—Minister of Education Allan Rock had some good news for Montréal-area universities Monday when he announced the federal government will contribute over \$40 million to research through the Canada Innovation Strategy.

"It's a contribution to universities that will help defray the indirect costs of research and allow for the excellent work they do to continue," Rock said. "So I think it's a very important contribution for the government to make."

The funding is designed to help offset the indirect costs of scientific, technical and health research, such as lighting, heating, animal care and libraries, and will be broken down as follows: the first \$100,000 of these indirect costs will be refunded at 80 per cent by the federal government; the next \$900,000 at 50 per cent, the following \$6 million at 40 per cent and the balance at 20 per cent.

According to Rock, despite the \$12 billion the federal government has made directly available to Canadian universities for research over the last seven years, many universities are unable to put the funding to use because of the overhead costs associated with research. That's something Rock is aiming to put an end to.

"I don't want to see any college or university that's not able to take advantage of our financing because they can't afford the overhead or the supporting staff," said Rock.

The chief beneficiary of this new line of funding is McGill University, which will receive \$16 million under the structure of the new arrangement. Concordia will receive just over \$3 million of the \$255 million total allocated for all Canadian universities this year.

Concordia Vice-Provost Research Truong Vo-Van, who attended the press conference, said the announcement was a good start, but doesn't go far enough.

"The level of support is not very high at the moment, but it puts us in a position to increase the percentages down the line," he said.

Dave Weatherall, Québec Bureau

FTAA A THREAT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION, TRADE ANALYST SAYS

VANCOUVER (CUP)—International trade negotiations, such as those aimed at establishing the world's largest free trade zone, are a threat to public education, a Canadian trade analyst said in Vancouver on 20 November.

"There's an underlying conflict here between the principles and purposes of public education and international trade treaties," said Jim Grieshaber-Otto from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Grieshaber-Otto made his comments at a teach-in the same day talks laying the groundwork for the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas wrapped up in Miami, Florida. Trade ministers agreed on a framework for the FTAA, which would reduce barriers to trade between 34 countries in North and South America.

United Nations treaties protect the right to an accessible and affordable education. But in practice, according to Grieshaber-Otto, rules set out in trade agreements tend to supersede treaties' provisions for education and human rights.

"Canada should recognize the primacy of human rights law over trade and investment treaties," he said.

To protect its education system, asserted Grieshaber-Otto, Canada should not make or demand any commitments related to education during trade negotiations. Governments must also keep commercialization in schools to a minimum, he maintained.

"Commercializing public education promotes narrow interests and undermines the fundamental principles of equity, diversity, and openness upon which public education systems are based," Grieshaber-Otto said.

According to the Associated Press, thousands rallied and about 140 were arrested as demonstrators clashed with police in riot gear during the Miami negotiations.

Opponents of the FTAA say it poses a threat to the environment, human rights, indigenous people, and workers.

Stephen Hui, British Columbia Bureau

GATEWAY NEWS



MEETINGS EVERY
TUESDAY AT 4PM

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Kristine Cwram

STUDENT LOAN APPROVAL POLICY UNFOURCES

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—As Ottawa puts in place a policy to deny student loans to certain schools, representatives from the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Canada Student Loan Program are butting heads over who knows what's best for students.

Last April, administrators of the federal Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) and the provincial loan distribution programs toughened restrictions on postsecondary institutions for the distribution of student loans.

Currently, postsecondary institutions are required to meet designation requirements before their students can receive loans. Institutions that fail these requirements will be "de-designated," meaning their students will not be eligible to receive loans.

Under the amended designation policy's new requirements, healthy loan repayment rates among a school's graduates will be a condition for obtaining and retaining designation status.

"We've always looked at designation restrictions as a student-protection issue," said Brad Brohman, CSLP's director of accountability and performance management.

Keith Dunne, chair of the CFS provincial lobby group, said that while he has no problem with the government tightening its leash on private, for-profit postsecondary institutions, the amended requirements could also hurt students and public schools.

"While the federal government may say they are looking primarily at private colleges, that also leaves the door open for them to look at universities," he said.

"Students... are getting worthwhile education, but are not able to find the jobs to pay off their student loans."

Lindsay Harding, The Muse

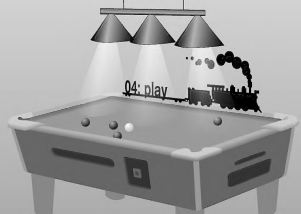
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the four elements



STUDENTS' UNION PAGE

NOVEMBER 27 2003

ALBERTA TUITION CAP

1982 - 2003

It is with heartfelt sadness that we announce the premature death of Alberta's post-secondary education Tuition Cap after a courageous battle with the latest government de-regulation scheme – Bill 43. The Cap was only 21.

Born in 1982 in Edmonton, the Cap once ensured that our public post-secondary education system was affordable for all Albertans. In these early years, the Cap insisted that tuition be between 8 and 12 percent of institutions' budgets, and ensured a fair funding partnership between students and the public. By 1991, already weakened by the emerging privatization agenda and draconian cuts to everything "public," the Cap was moved to 20 percent, and Albertans were assured that this was the "tuition cap for the 1990s." Yet, less than 5 years later, the Cap was lifted again, this time to 30 percent. Within a few years of this change institutions were permitted, according to our beloved Auditor General, to routinely ignore the Cap.

In recent years, the Cap had come under unnecessary attacks by money-hungry Administrations and government-appointed Boards of Governors at Alberta's universities, many of which actively sought the Cap's demise. While increasingly ineffectual—allowing tuition to nearly quadruple since 1990—the Cap was none the less appreciated by students and their families. Things would undoubtedly have been worse without the Cap; its valiant efforts to ensure equality of opportunity for all will not be forgotten.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the majority of Albertans who support affordable tuition—students, parents, citizens—and particularly to those whose fight to save the Cap will live on in memory, at least until the next energy rebate/vote-buying scheme or the next disingenuous attack on Ottawa.

Condolences and/or blame may be laid squarely at the feet of the provincial government. Please contact your local MLA, or Learning Minister Lyle Oberg. Please, on behalf of the Friends of the Cap, no flowers, cash donations, or electoral support to betrayers of the Cap and the public trust it embodied.

**A public memorial service
will be held at the heart of
Deregulation Nation—the
Alberta Legislature—on
November 27, 2003
at 12:00 pm.**

Deregulation
NATION

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UPCOMING SU EVENTS:

Nov. 27: Tuition Cap Funeral
@ Legislature
Nov. 27: Engineering Gripe Table
@ ETLG
Nov. 29: Robin Hunter & His Six Foot Bullies
CD Release Party @ Powerplant
Dec. 1: Science Gripe Table
Dec 1: Lord of the Rings Anticipation Appreciation Party
@ at SUB Stage & Dewey's
Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring
Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
Dec. 2: Arts Gripe Table
Dec. 5: SU Kids' Christmas Party
@ SUBstage; contact sac@su.ualberta.ca for more info

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Pigeonholing won't fix discrimination

AS THE FIRST AND ONLY CHILD from a long line of Ontarians to be born and raised in Alberta, I have always been very defensive of my province. During my twice-yearly trips out East to visit my extended family, I am forced to deal with countless jokes about how "ashamed" my family is to be related to an Albertan, what a right-wing redneck I've become, and how I really should have considered going to the University of Toronto to get a "real education" instead of staying at the University of Alberta.

Now, I've seen a good portion of the world, and I can safely say that some of the most liberal and open-minded people I've ever met are from Alberta. But try telling that to the rest of Canada.

Last month, the Gateway held a conference for members of the Canadian University Press from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. The conference was a success and everyone had a good time, or so we thought. It wasn't until almost three weeks later that an editorial appeared in a British Columbian student newspaper entitled "Forget Alberta." In this editorial, the author claimed she had encountered four separate incidents of racism over the course of a single weekend in Edmonton. Of the not four, but two examples she gave, one happened on a bus in British Columbia and the other, the refusal of a campus bartender to give her a lemon for her drink, was dubious at best.

Despite these questionable examples, she went on to paint Albertans with a very broad brush, implying the province was a black mark on the face of an otherwise open-minded country. By forgetting Alberta, she explained, was simply going to let the province "ruin the years of positive experiences [she had] in Canada."

Needless to say, I was furious. Racism is not a problem that exists only in Alberta, and by implying that it is, the real issue is ignored. Instead of focusing on racism as a general and continuing problem both in Canada and around the world, the author came to Alberta looking for a scapegoat and found one.

There is a stigma that plague Albertans which doesn't exist for any other province. Even Ralph Nader implied this when he spoke on campus last year and called us the "Texas of the North." According to many Canadians, we're just a bunch of right-wing bee-hives who hate black people and love black, black oil. While I'm sure there are people who fall in this category in Alberta, they can exist anywhere. So why us? It can't just be our undefeatable conservative government, because if it was, Ontarians would share in many of the same stereotypes.

No, it runs deeper than that. Western alienation does exist, and as long as people visit our province and spend their time searching out validation of their preconceived notions and stereotypes, it's not going to go away.

KRISTINE OVRAM
News Editor

Fin-du-mois haikus

One powerbook smashed.
One tear rolling down a cheek.
New one on the way.

One more newspaper.
Sadly, one essay as well.
Punch me in the mind.

She really did sing.
Paulina Grezdyk, that is.
That was not lip-synched.

I agree with Don.
I really hate powerbooks,
With no warranty.

Photoshop and me,
We will never get along
Where's my cheese sandwich?

Too many haikus,
Kristine's editorial
Was really too short.

GATEWAY STAFF

LETTERS

An open letter from Minister Lyle Oberg

I would like to take this opportunity to share my insights regarding Bill 43: The Post-secondary Learning Act, 2003, that is currently being debated in the Legislature.

This is the first time since 1981 that a major review of Alberta's post-secondary learning legislation was completed. We can't take our system into the 21st century with 1981 legislation. Bill 43 was tabled in May with the intent that stakeholders would have an opportunity throughout the summer to provide feedback on it. The Government expected to make changes to this legislation based on input from students, institutions and other stakeholders, and we continued to consult extensively with these groups throughout the summer and fall.

The resulting legislation and amendments, now before the Alberta Legislature, will drive the Campus Alberta vision for a post-secondary education system where students will have better access to opportunities for learning, no matter where in the province they choose to do that learning. This seamless learning system means students will have better access to courses and programs throughout the province, as well as increased access to degree-granting opportunities.

Bill 43 also provides an opportunity to address concerns. I recognize rising tuition is a concern for students, just as the increased costs of providing services is a concern for institutions. In Bill 43, we've proposed revisions to give institutions the flexibility they need to grow, clearly explain what tuition fees should include, and ensure institutions remain open and accountable to their students, while continuing to make sure tuition increases are predictable and manageable for students.

The new tuition fee policy replaces the current 30 per cent cap with other controls to protect students. Right now, tuition at most institutions is still less than 30 per cent of their operating expenditures, and these will continue to be regulated exactly as they are now—limited to a maximum annual increase of 5.76 in 2004-05, with annual adjustments based on the Alberta Consumer Price Index (CPI). For the few institutions that would go over the 30 per cent threshold, they will only be permitted maximum annual tuition fee increases of CPI plus two per cent—up to a maximum of five per cent total.

The new policy also makes sure that any material and service fees required for the completion of courses and programs are included as part of tuition fees. Right now there are limited restrictions to what extra course and program fees can be charged. With Bill 43, these additional fees will be subject to the same controls and restrictions we are putting on tuition increases and must be included in that calculation.

Bill 43 also responds to concerns that were expressed to me regarding the accountability of student associations and the funds they control on behalf of students.



EDMONTON: INTERNATIONAL CITY

Student association executives are responsible for substantial amounts of student funds, and they must be accountable for these funds. I consulted extensively with student associations in building this portion of the legislation to find out what level of accountability they would find acceptable. As a result, this legislation gives the Minister of Learning the authority to investigate into a student association only in cases of demonstrated financial irregularities.

Postsecondary education is one of the best investments anyone can make, especially in Alberta where there are great jobs, the cost of living is low and the standard of living is high. Alberta graduates enjoy among the highest gross salaries in the country. They also have the highest net salaries considering Alberta's standard of living and lower tax burden.

We have an excellent learning system in Alberta, and I believe Bill 43 will ensure we are prepared to bring our learning system into the future.

DR LYLE OBERG
Minister of Learning

Suicide prevention not just hospital referrals

I would like to clarify the role of the Student Distress Centre on our campus. The article "Preventing Suicide," (25 November) provided insight into campus resources related to suicide prevention. However, it unintentionally created a misconception about what is done when a client accesses the Student Distress Centre with issues related to suicide.

The Student Distress Centre volunteers are highly trained and experienced individuals, who also share their time on the Suicide Prevention Line of Edmonton. When someone is experiencing a lot of pain in their life, suicide can become an option for ending that pain. The Student Distress Centre is here to highlight the other options available for managing the pain so that suicide is not the only option. We do not simply take someone to the hospital if they are thinking about suicide. Nor is this the appropriate response when

someone is having a difficult time.

Asking for additional help with a problem takes enormous courage and I would hate for someone to not access the service simply because they believe all we do is take them to the hospital. There is a misconception that when someone is in distress they would automatically need a doctor because they are too incapable of handling the situation themselves. This is not true! People have amazing resources within their own lives and sometimes it is only a matter of talking it out with someone to realize what they are. The Student Distress Centre is not about giving advice to people on how to handle a problem. We don't believe that directing someone to the hospital is providing a solution to the problem, unless there is imminent danger.

We respect that people are in control of their own lives and they demonstrate this when they reach out for help in the first place. We work toward empowering individuals to seek out help and hope for themselves. This may include exploring sources of hope in their own life and/or connecting them with other supportive resources within the community. Everyone has down times and it is important to be aware that there is help available when needed. If you are concerned about someone, or are feeling overwhelmed yourself, I encourage you to access the centre, and as always, our approach will be non-judgmental, confidential, and empowering in nature.

HEATHER LUNDIE
Director, Student Distress Centre

Nice to have a right-winger like Backstrom

This is in response to Melvin Backstrom's article "Conflicting opinions stifled at Parkland," (25 November).

A right wing extremist? Aren't those extinct? The only other time I've seen the Gateway print non-liberal content was another one of Backstrom's articles on the Iraq war.

Are we a dying species? To be honest I was shocked by Naomi Klein's misinformation and basic lack

of economics. It wasn't a debate, it was liberal locker-room-high-fiving. "Way to go; stick it Bush!" Ridiculous.

Thank you, Mr Backstrom, for being the last bastion against the armies of idealistic and largely uninformed student populations.

ANISH CHARI
Science IV

Backstrom fulfills Parkland's mandate

Bravo, and thank you to Mr Backstrom for his opinion piece "Conflicting opinions stifled at Parkland" (25 November).

The fact that he was moved by the mere existence of the Parkland Conference to write the article lets us know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that our conference succeeded in its mandate of "broadening the scope of political dialogue and discussion in Alberta."

It is only unfortunate that, despite his assertion that he embraces "real debate," Mr Backstrom made no attempts to actually speak to me in preparing his article, nor did he bother to actually attend the conference. By presenting a rant rather than a researched article, the piece itself comes across as being "an expression of narrow-mindedness on the part of someone who's ostensibly trying to promote dialogue."

RICARDO ACUNA
Executive Director
Parkland Institute

Gateway Sports makes reader sad

I read last Tuesday's sport section that of the A's wrestlers were out in some god-awful case province wrestling their hearts out for us ("Sports in Brief," 18 November). Now, I understand that results weren't available at press time. Fine, whatever.

But to subject wrestling fans to the torture of IWWE was just cruel. It's poorly acted slapstick, like a really bad remake of The Three Stooges, only the Stooges are jacked up on steroids and cloned. Yuck.

PLEASE SEE MORE LETTERS • PAGE 6

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gateway student journalism society

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If you are interested, please submit a brief paragraph (no more than 400 words) regarding why you would be a good candidate for one of these positions to the Chair of the GSJS Board of Directors.

Information regarding the specifics of these positions can be found in the GSJS bylaws, Articles 9 and 10, posted on the GSJS website: <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gjsj/>

For more information, or to submit an application, please contact the Chair of the GSJS Board of Directors through e-mail at gjsj@gateway.ualberta.ca or by telephone at 780.492.6669. Applications may also be dropped off in person at the Gateway offices in 3-04 SUB.



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MORE LETTERS • CONTINUED PAGE 5
I could have forgiven that horrible judgment lapse if the results from this mysterious eastern tournament were somewhere in Thursday's paper. Or at least another note explaining that results weren't available yet (minus the WWE crap). But, no. There was nothing.
I didn't really understand why the Pandas were complaining about having their lower-profile teams completely ignored by the Gateway Now! I do. And it makes me sad it makes my teddy bear sad, too, not that any of you bastards care.

MELANIE GREENFIELD
Science I

Cyclist: beware of the law

After reading Ryan Williams' article ("Year of the bike a bad year for cyclists," 23 November), my fellow cyclists may find this valuable.

A few weeks into the semester while riding my bike, I got pulled over by a police officer. I was informed that it was against city bylaws to ride at night without a headlight on my bike. I didn't know this was the law, but if that's the law, then so be it; give me the ticket (or preferably a warning) and I won't piss and moan about it. But the fine for this violation was \$115! It's not the ticket, but the amount that seems totally perverse to me. Fines like this, and city council denies that it's a cash grab?

It's bad enough I got nailed in such a major way and now have to buy Coit 45 Malt Liquor, rather than Molson, for Hockey Night in Canada, but the way I was treated by the police officer was nothing short of criminal. When all I produced for ID was my OneCard, I was told that I had to carry proper ID. I guess I missed the memo that we had degenerated to a Soviet-era police state. I was forced to show him my tattoo as well. Then I was lectured about getting more reflective clothing. If this genius had pulled his head far enough out of his ass to see the 3M reflective tape all over the back of my bike, he might have saved us both that part of the lecture.

So my question is this: where was he when my truck was being broken into? Or when my neighbor had all of her belongings stolen from her yard? Or when some innocent child was being run down in a high-speed chase?

I'm glad to see my tax dollars are going to support your partially-cooked-donut eating, worthless carcass that can hand out the interrogation and punishment that I so rightly deserve. I am a "bicycle thug" and you are truly a big man who showed me the error of my ways.

To all cyclists: Buy a head light, tail light, and 3M reflector tape. And to the cop who harassed me: find me and give me another ticket. I'll be watching for your bloated, jack-booted, goose-stepping ass. Try solving a real crime.

HEATH KONDRO
Grad Studies I

Eugenics were abandoned long ago, Mr Panas

I knew something seemed really familiar in Trevor Panas' article "Do you have a licence for that baby?" (20 November).

I found a quote that seems to nicely sum up Mr Panas' article: "wherein selection for parenthood will not be held a natural right of every individual; but will be a prize highly sought and allotted to the best individuals of proven blood, and those individuals who are not deemed worthy and are by society denied the right to perpetrate their own traits in subsequent generations will be held in pity by their fellows."

That basically summarizes what Panas was getting at, does it not? So who spoke the above quote? It was Harry Laughlin, famous for his pro-eugenics literature.
Panas' article ever so delicately hints at a modern-day eugenics program. I suggest he do a little reading and he'll discover that such a program was once highly popular here in Alberta. Perhaps then he'll think a little more before propagating such ideas.

ERIN BEAUDIN
Biological Sciences IV

Christians should share the Gospel 'one-on-one'

Though I commend those behind this Green Gateway campaign for sharing their love of Jesus with the masses, such advertising campaigns don't sit well with me.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not a cell phone, nor a brand of pop. When you advertise in such a fashion, you're turning God into a consumer good, another product that will make your life easier and let you live some sort of lifestyle. This claim is similar to the ones made by every purveyor of stuff.

The thing about stuff is that when something is no longer new and exciting, people discard it. Then they move on to the next thing that will make their lives easier and more appealing. My fear is that those who accept Jesus as their savior as a result of this campaign will move on to some other interesting deity when the excitement dies down.

So perhaps the best way Christians can share the Gospel is on a one-on-one basis where we reveal the true Lord to others instead of a non-offensive, plastic deity.

KATHERINE HENNIG
Arts II

Jesus not only bribed people, he used magic

In response to Robin MacDougall's letter "Jesus wouldn't bribe his would be followers," (25 November), let's have a look at the definition of "bribe." The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a bribe as "money or favour given or promised in order to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust."

I might remind you of the time Jesus turned water into wine for a wedding party (John 2:1-10), or the time he turned five pieces of bread and two fish into unlimited food for 5000 men (Matthew 14:20-21).

Perhaps I may also suggest that rather than slander your fellow human beings you take a trip to Galgaltha and do unto Jesus what he did unto Lazarus. Who knows, perhaps he will give you 5000

fishies and a couple gallons of wine.

AARON LEVIN
Engineering Physics V

Parking Services shouldn't be gouging students

I paid a \$20 parking fine to Parking Services in order to avoid the kind of hassles for which I have no time. However, I wish to put my protest on the record. I always and in good faith pay into the meter the correct amount for the time I expect to require. In this particular case, I arrived at 12:25pm and expected to be in a meeting until 2pm. Accordingly, I deposited \$2.75 for 1 hour 50 minutes. I was slightly delayed and arrived back at the car at 2:17pm, only to find a ticket, made out at 2:15pm. The only way this would have been possible (since I'd paid until 2:15) would be for an attendant literally to wait for the meter to run out, with the intention of immediately ticketing the car.

I have several objections to this kind of behaviour. First, I do not think it is in the spirit of the parking service; there ought to be a period of grace, especially considering the fact that these analogue machines are not, in my observation, accurate to the minute (they have been known to give me anywhere between eight and twelve minutes of time per quarter, as well as to run out early).

This ticketing strategy strikes me as a shameful attempt by the university to extort a few more dollars from its students. I am, moreover, deeply opposed to the regulation that "The University reserves the right to withhold indication of academic performance and to deny registration or access to registration materials for non-payment of fines incurred by students." A parking violation should not have any bearing on academic performance, which is based on a university service for which I have paid in full and which bears no relation to my usage of other facilities (such as parking). I suspect that this policy could be challenged legally, and I hope someone eventually gets annoyed enough to do so.

I do not believe that I should have to pay \$20 for being two minutes late on a meter. Whoever handed out that ticket at precisely 2:15pm should have waited a few minutes, to determine whether I had paid for my time in good faith, or was indeed intending to remain without paying. I believe that what I owe the University is exactly 25 cents, no more. Ironically, nothing else at the University seems to be as efficient as your parking attendants. What a shame.

GOESTA STRIVE-DECHER
Drama Masters II

Letters to the editor should be dropped off in room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gatewaysu.ualberta.ca

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise harmful to readers.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

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University may be expensive, but at least I can talk good English



ROSS MOROZ

Like most people my age, my friends fall into two categories: those who are in university, and those who wonder why the hell anyone would go to university. Whenever I hang out with my non-student friends—or those with readily disposable income—I am invariably asked why I am wasting my time and money in pursuit of a university education. It's a fair question—especially in a province where university graduates tend to make less money than your average alcoholic high school dropout (be he a rig pig or, say, the premier)—one that I should probably try and answer for myself.

At first I thought that the real reason I was in university was to amuse myself. Let's face it: the U of A is a pretty funny place, especially if you're looking at the ozymoronic things we involve ourselves with ("Business Ethics," "Canadian History," "Student Journalism"). All kidding aside, I think I've discovered the real reason that I am at university, and ironically it's my cash-addicted but intellectually-bankrupt friends who have helped me to this revelation. Simply put, I don't

"A guy on my rec hockey team, upon learning he's capable of shooting either left or right, giddily exclaimed that he must be 'amphibious.' I once described an argumentative friend of mine as vitriolic, to which he responded that he'd never deliberately thrown up to lose weight."

want to talk like them.

Generally speaking, my friends' proficiency with the English language is at best amusing and at worst frightening. And I'm not talking about the typical linguistic faux pas—saying "I seen" instead of "I saw," for example.

These are people who attempt to use words they clearly do not understand, haphazardly transposing syllables and all even whole words with unintentionally hilarious results. Some examples:

A co-worker of mine who recently got her hands on a copy of the *GATEWAY* that I had appeared in asked me whether or not I was now officially a "Gateway communist." Similarly, A guy on my rec hockey team, upon learning he's capable of shooting either left or right, giddily exclaimed that he must be "amphibious." I once described an argumentative friend of mine as vitriolic, to which he responded that he'd never deliberately thrown up to lose weight.

It gets worse. Upon hearing that I thought of myself as a socialist, a friend assumed that I meant I could twist myself into a human pretzel. I

know a hippy girl that always asks what kind of incest she should burn when I come over. I have a buddy who continually describes Ché Guevara as an "evolutionary" leader. I once asked my friend Sean if he intended to cheat on his girlfriend; he informed me that he was committed to having a "monotomous" relationship. When an ex girlfriend's uncle—whom we all assumed was gay—announced that he and a girl had gotten engaged, my ex confided to me that she remained doubtful that the marriage would ever be "conjugated."

The point is while a university education no longer affords the financial advantages and prestige it once did, being a university student does allow some privileges: we can listen to CBC Radio and almost not be bored by it. We can wear scarves. We can flirt with TAs. And, most of all, we can be smugly elitist, bludgeoning everyone we know with our skillful use of the English language.

So what if all your friends make more money than you; at least you can consummate verbs.

Edmonton cops aren't doing their jobs



CAITLIN CRAWFORD

My brother passed a couple of guys beating an old man as he walked down Whyte avenue last weekend. As he told me this, I imagined him doing a double-take, glancing from the old man to the men, to the bystanders, and back again to the old man. How could this be happening in broad daylight, in public view? Why was no one reacting? My brother, stumped and freaked out, called the cops. The cop he spoke with on the telephone was nonchalant and bored-sounding. "Yeah, sounds like assault," said the cop to my brother. Ultimately, the cops didn't show. Seriously outnumbered, there was nothing he could do. Feeling powerless, my brother left.

After hearing this, other incidents flooded my mind, leaving me with serious doubts about the quality of our police force. Perhaps these incidents do not indicate a lack of conscience on behalf of the police force, but they certainly suggest that something is amiss.

This year, I have called the police on two occasions, both to report drunk drivers. In spite of the apparent "crack-down" on drunk driving this year, the cops who took my call sounded bored in both cases and in one case, pretty irritated with me. On the latter occasion, the officer didn't seem at all interested in the fact that I had spotted two teenagers drinking Budweisers in the cab of their truck. At a red light I'd glanced beside my vehicle to see two young guys bouncing the truck, laughing, yelling, beers in hand, before zooming off stupidly, and most likely drunkenly, toward downtown. I had

a good description of the vehicle and the license plate number, as well as the street address I'd spotted them at. "Uh-huh, sure, yeah, uh-huh, thanks." Click. He didn't seem to give a damn that these kids were liquored up and behind the wheel.

This summer, a friend of mine was stopped by cops one evening as he was walking home from a club. My friend is a decent guy, fairly reasonable, and certainly no liar. So when he told me that he'd been given a ticket for over \$400 by these cops for walking on the curb of a sidewalk, sirens went off in my head. The cops called it "stunting" and accused him of walking in the middle of the road. My friend denied it—he'd done nothing of the sort, he said, and as far as he knew, he had a perfect right to express himself on the sidewalk as he pleased. What the hell difference does it make if you're walking in the middle of the sidewalk or along the curb late at night, when there aren't cars around anyway? He also didn't appreciate the verbal abuse, as he was told he was drunk. Yet, my friend doesn't drink, and was hardly inebriated.

And what's more, the incident wasn't

just baffling for my friend—it was nerve-racking. He told me that he'd felt threatened to such a point that he sought help from some other cops a couple of blocks away. These cops also verbally abused him, when he'd only asked for them to intervene on his behalf. Alone with several cops, late at night, my friend worried that he'd be physically assaulted.

At his hearing, the judge knocked his ticket price down by about a hundred bucks. Still not impressed with this treatment, he's decided to appeal the judgement. To someone who makes very little money, this is an inappropriate fine, and indeed, ridiculous in light of the fact that the only thing he'd done was walk on the curb.

Perhaps these situations portray city cops as far worse than they generally are, but I haven't run across anyone with particularly positive police experiences, and I've been disappointed of late. I am not one to subscribe to notions of corruption or conspiracy, and prior to these experiences I've refused to believe the rumours that our police force is lacking in any of its services. But in light of these situations, I'm certainly more open to that suggestion.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Way the US government is improving morale at Camp X-Ray

- 1 Innates can now choose between sunset-orange and tangerine-orange jumpsuits.
- 2 Kumbaya singalongs around roaring campfire made from copies of the Geneva Convention.
- 3 Smiles now free with each serving of gruel.
- 4 Games of 15py without the blindfolds.
- 5 Hourly Michael Jackson updates.
- 6 Show prisoners copy of A.A. Prison Guide to prove once and for all that North Korean gulags are still rated lower.
- 7 Nightly screenings of hilarious Hogan's Heroes reruns.
- 8 Special appearance by, you guessed it, Carrot Top!
- 9 Renamed it CubaDisney.
- 10 "Tickle-Batons."

Here we go again!

It seems strange that lately, our Managing Editor just can't seem to stop building these huge statues of himself on top of public places. Is it a power trip? Is it a result of enormous ego? No way! It's just a friendly and terrifying reminder to come on up and write for the Opinion section. Because if you don't, you know which world you're gonna be in.

THE GATEWAY

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Put your money where your mind is I'm going to miss America

PAUL
REUKE

Everything that we do has consequence, film-theorist Wade Davis knows this. In the 6 July 2000 issue of the *Globe and Mail* he said: "Outside of the major industrial nations, globalization has not brought integration and harmony, but rather a firestorm of change that has swept away languages and cultures, ancient skills and visionary wisdom. Of the 6,000 languages spoken today, fully half are today not being taught to children. Effectively, they are already dead. Within a single generation, we are witnessing the loss of half of humanity's social, spiritual and intellectual legacy."

With that in mind, the doing that I'd like to highlight is consumption my friends—indeed, the blood, sweat, and tears that grease the wheels of the mega-machine markets that somehow grew to proportions that we cannot sustain environmentally or justify morally. I would need seven hundred pages to reasonably explain even most of the factors and formulae involved in our travesty. I'll see how much I can squeeze into seven hundred words.

Think of this: each pair of shoes that are bought from hypothetical manufacturer *Cliché* leads them towards seeking a means of expansion so that they can meet the increase in demand. In order to remain competitive, *Cliché* naturally looks for ways of cutting costs per shoe. This leads *Cliché* to increasing the mechanization in its operations in the "developed" nations, leading to layoffs and increased unemployment. The government responds to this by providing subsidies to *Cliché*

"There are fair trade items available, but when you buy something from abroad, without that label, how do you know that the hands of the mothers, children, and brothers that stitched those luxury shoes wouldn't have rather picked apples for their family? Do the feet that belong to those hands even have shoes of their own?"

to encourage them to expand, in the hopes that they'll create a couple more jobs. But in the long term this just perpetuates a cycle known to sociologists as "the treadmill of production." *Cliché* naturally sends delegations to organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, NAFTA, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, to lobby for the right to move their production operations to cheaper jurisdictions. *Cliché* acts naturally as any large machine designed to make as much money as possible does. Each supposedly good and kind human being that is part of the *Cliché* machine has a daily grind, complete with joys and pains, and is far removed from the imminent prospects the machine leaves in its wake.

"The problems are real, as alluded to above by Dr Davis. The international markets that have formed out of billions and billions of little chain reactions have brought a prosperity which is sideways because of the environmental degradation and the erosion of community and culture of the work-obsessed, dysfunctional "winners." The "losers" in these arenas may have had their democratic leaders removed, and their countries saturated with foreign instalments that have the ability to do so only because of asymmetrical military support and buying power. The "losers" are countries such as Kenya, which was poisoned with ill-guided investment "aid" from the World Bank in the '60s that is now being recalled with the power

that has forced malnourished farmers to grow roses and coffee for London and Paris markets rather than the foods that would feed their homeland.

The "losers" include any country where labour and capital go towards items for sale in foreign markets, while the needs and the dignities of the people are not respected by the resources of that land, or the domestic revenues of that export. This is a long list; just think of all the countries you can name where people are suffering, and ask yourself if you've ever bought anything from one of those countries. There are fair trade items available, but when you buy something from abroad, without that label, how do you know that the hands of the mothers, children, and brothers that stitched those luxury shoes wouldn't have rather picked apples for their family? Do the feet that belong to those hands even have shoes of their own?

Tomorrow is Buy Nothing Day, and I challenge myself and every one of you to question if we are addicted to or programmed for destructive over-consumption, or if we can take this one day to remove our monetary actions from the unbalanced world stage. And I also challenge each of us to consider the effects of each thing that we buy, and to buy only those things that are part of positive chains, where we meet our needs by helping others meet theirs. Think globally, think of whom you're affecting and how. Buy locally when you can, and always buy responsibly. Live fully, and know that you have done your best.

AARON
BRAATEN

In the latest issue of *Cigar Aficionado*, General Tommy Franks let the burgundy slip up far enough to reveal that if there's one more terrorist attack on United States of America, it will be no more. Everything our southern sisters and brothers hold dear: up in smoke. Electoral voting gone. Would-be-military dictatorship by executive orders: in. Quasi-free press: out. De facto Carlyle/Black propaganda machine: in. Given a high probability that a pre-emptive strike in the Middle East would instigate a response on American soil, thereby leading to a dissolving of the Constitution, I'm going to miss that good old country I've read so many great things about.

Anyone with a modicum of Google knowledge and a thirst for "small-t" truth can figure out for themselves that the official "Washington Conspiracy" is a big, smelly lie. The official conspiracy holds that a group of Saudi nationals precision-piloted airliners into buildings, that Osama had connections to Saddam, who in turn had weapons of mass destruction — you know the drill.

There's a plethora of alternate Internet information concerning 9/11, like the disappearing Pentagon plane, the controlled WTC demolition, the mysterious WTC Building #7 bombing, or the shady financial dealings of airline stock. There's enough evidence to indicate that 9/11 was an inside job. Furthermore, Henry Kissinger's in charge of discerning fact from fiction in all of this mess. I wouldn't trust him with the well being of three million Vietnamese citizens or furthering democracy in Chile, so why should anyone trust him with heading up the 9/11 investigation?

The nature of information on the 'net is that it is always subject to scrutiny: we would rather have our info filtered for us by a journalist

technocracy than turning on our ever-so-rare critical thinking skills to separate conspiracy from fact for ourselves. The question is not whether the information has a large consensus (which it does), but whether you wish to be castigated by the mainstream as a suicidal nutcase/paranoid schizophrenic for considering such theories.

Simply asking "who benefits" reveals that it's really the capitalists and the kingly plundering from the public purse to purchase WMDs that will leave radioactive materials on Iraqi soil for ages. Of course, there is a problem with asking "who benefits" as a prescription for who is at fault. If the University of Calgary was somehow destroyed and everyone enrolled at the U of A, I would not argue that it was the U of A's fault.

If the University of Calgary was somehow destroyed and everyone enrolled at the U of A, I would not argue that it was the U of A's fault.

Perhaps over this holiday season, we might cease with the collective cranial-anal co-located disorder (otherwise known as the MJ Trial) long enough to notice that the planet is going to go to pot. Perhaps I suffer from some trauma inflicted upon me during my youth stemming from my Mom reading *Chicken Little* and *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* to me every night, but something has to explain my overwhelming urge to warn others of impending doom and inevitable apocalypse. Reports of US military deployments flying over Scotland and those of nuke-submarines approaching the Middle East with the intention of carrying out pre-emptive strikes on Iran and Syria are causing me to wonder how long I can maintain my illusion of comfort.

America, you used to stand for so many great things—liberty, justice, peace. Goodbye America, I'll miss you. See you after the Apocalypse, perhaps.

Worried about suffering from Gateway withdrawal over the exceedingly long Holiday season? You friend, need to be reading up on Gateway happenings at our nifty little blog. Find out what the editors got for Christmas, and answer the question that's been plaguing humanity for ages: is Chris Boutet really an escaped mental patient? Check out www.gatewayualberta.ca/heatherfolderstatic

Gateway Blog

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Shave Lyle Oberg's cat and save money

TREVOR
PANAS



Guess what? You tossed away \$12 000 dollars last year. You missed the opportunity to make sweet monkey love to someone else 728 times, or to yourself 6500 times. You also gained an unnecessary five pounds, and failed to capitalize on the opportunity to launch your GPA into the Dean's list. All this could have been avoided by simply pressing a button. Now, before you toss this news-paper out, thinking I'm either trying to sell you Herbal Magic or a Green Figurine of some sort, let me explain to you that this button can be found on your television: it's labeled "power."

I've crunched the numbers and come up with some startling statistics, with the help of the fine folks at Stats Canada. The average Albertan aged 15-24 watches over 21 hours of television every week. That's 1100 hours per year. Even if your job consists of shaving Lyle Oberg's cat for \$6 an hour, that's enough to pay tuition, which in turn cycles back into Dr Oberg's cat-shaving fund, and thus comes right back to you. Cool, huh?

If money's not your thing (and for

"The average Albertan aged 15-24 watches over 21 hours of television every week. That's 1100 hours per year. Even if your job consists of shaving Lyle Oberg's cat for \$6 an hour, that's enough to pay tuition, which in turn cycles back into Dr Oberg's cat-shaving fund, and thus comes right back to you."

anyone shelling out \$5000 a year tuition? No Frasee can dine on babies stuffed with bamboo, then money's not your thing) think of the other good uses you could put your 21 hours per week to. That's three hours of sheet-tearing jungle-love every day of the week with that someone special. Or, for the self-servers and single among us, the chance to wander around Source Adult Video and take home some quality adult entertainment every night of the week.

Alternatively, for the science students who are prepared to give up both money and sex (one temporarily, the other permanently), in exchange for the right to place the letters "Dr" in front of their names, think of the copious amount of biochemistry you could get done. Instead of a 4.0 GPA with straight A's, you could get a 4.0 based on straight A++s. Surely that would convince those Med school admissions folks that you're not just a status-hungry mama's boy desperately seeking self-actualization!

Are all those boys drunk while

watching the big-game getting to your midsection? You'd be amazed at what 21 hours a week in the gym can do for you; hell, you'd probably be governor of California within a few years.

Of course, there are drawbacks to watching less television. You'll no longer be able to talk about what that Joe Millionaire guy is up to. Plus, you'll miss all those really important TV news stories, like when the people-helper sets out to find little Timmy's lost Shitzu, only to discover that there's a mysterious Shitzu they ring in the city, and it's somehow tied to the Panda Garden's record profits.

It is really worth precious hours of your own life to watch someone else's fake or contrived one? Even watching TV news is useless; the one-dimensional stories are all sensationalized, and anyone who desires an objective account of current events is forced to look elsewhere for their information.

So, step slowly away from the remote, take a running jump and plant your foot squarely through the screen of that shitbox. Then go shave Lyle's cat.

Don't believe the media: do your own research



GERARD
MCLARNEY

I once had an American History professor who said, "if after graduating you can't remember any details about the Industrial Revolution, not all is lost. Even if you fail to recollect any class content from any course," he went on, "at least you will come away from university with one skill: the ability to write."

I think my prof was on to something. All those term papers and research assignments help develop the ability to communicate ideas intelligently. Of course, others will be quick to add skills such as self-reflection and critical thinking, among others, as expected products of spending four or more years here. But one basic skill that isn't strongly fostered in university, but should be, is reading. Not reading for literacy, but in terms of reading and interpreting the information provided everyday by the mass media.

It is imperative for those in higher education to learn how to deconstruct information provided by the media, for its influences, if not molds, our perspective of world events. How people understand the political situation in Zimbabwe, or the failed economic summit in Cancun, or the "progress" of the war in Iraq, relies on the information we are given. Understanding leads to opinions and opinions lead to action. The basic process of intelligent action, succinctly formulated as "see, judge, then act" relies extensively on the "seeing" part. But what is that "seeing" of the world is sometimes filtered or even falsified.

Take for instance the latest saga in the Iraqi invasion, the Jessica Lynch story—a story about a US soldier allegedly injured and taken prisoner. It turns out what we first heard about a "rescue operation" was as close to

the truth as the US is to finding weapons of mass destruction. That the American military molds and censors what comes out of Iraq is hardly a surprise, given the high stakes of victory in the court of US public opinion. The Lynch episode serves to illustrate both how the press can distort reality, and the impact the media can have on a susceptible public.

Other times, the information and facts given to us are not lies, but come with a particular slant or angle. As a Catholic, I usually pay particular attention when my faith is the subject of a media report. And, just like in term papers, a different spin or angle can be given in a news report.

One insight I had into how the media distorts the facts came at World Youth Day in Toronto last year. Pope John Paul II gave a number of speeches over the course of a week covering a plethora of subjects. In one talk he mentioned sexual abuse for no more than two minutes. The following day the front page headlines were all over it, amplifying one per cent of the talk to astronomical high proportions, blurring the actual speech's content. Any outsider seeking an informed understanding of World Youth Day through the media was at a serious disadvantage.

When I came back to Edmonton I asked Dr Willi Braun, of the then Comparative Literature, Religion and Film Media Studies department, about this obvious slant. He said, "The media flattens out complexities and is interested in controversy and scandal." The media has plenty of contempt and informed reporters he stressed, but its "structural makeup doesn't permit sustained discussion on any topic." In other words, the media functions in a manner not conducive to providing a balanced picture of reality.

We have seen how in certain—likely exceptional—cases, the information we read and see is falsified. In some instances it is spun or slanted, or in others, distorted significantly. These limitations and deficiencies of the press, which are hardly recent discoveries, are not emphasized suffi-

ciently in postsecondary curriculum. The University's motto, "whatever things are true," points to the desire to foster a search for a true and accurate understanding of reality. Empowering students to be articulate and well-informed citizens requires a skill set that will address how to read the most common data set around: the press.

THE BURLAP SACK

This Burlap sack goes out to our very own Students' Union that exists, at least ostensibly, to safeguard the wellbeing of students, but manages to encourage the exact opposite by its use of pink, stinky hand soap in the washrooms in SUB.

If you don't know what I mean, then I invite you to go in either of the pairs of washrooms on the main floor of SUB and take a whiff. Unless your sense of smell is completely non-existent, I think you'll agree that you don't even have to get near the actual soap dispensers themselves to be assaulted by the aforementioned stench.

Having soap with such a strong odour that it sticks to the hands for, quite literally, hours afterwards makes me think twice about washing my hands at all. Of course, I do, but a degree of reluctance on my part, and possibly on the part of many others, certainly exists. Someone who did not realize the importance of washing one's hands after using a toilet, however, could very well be dissuaded from doing so because of this stench laden soap.

As evidenced by the abundant offerings of green olfactory-neutral hand soap in all U of A maintained buildings, an alternative certainly exists, so why does the SU continue to inflict this pink stick onto us?

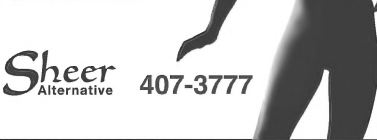
MEVIN BACKSTROM

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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Student Group of the Month

Political Science Undergraduate Association

The Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA) is a faculty association that is catered to the needs of a relatively smaller and more intimate group of political science students on the U of A Campus. One of the main goals of the PSUA is to facilitate a friendly relationship between political science students and the department by ensuring an open dialogue. Beyond this, the PSUA has been able to balance work with fun by offering both social functions and informative seminar/lectures to students. Although the organization is still relatively small, the PSUA continues to work towards reaching out to the U of A community. Whether it is trying to establish joint projects with other campus groups or making others aware of the association, the PSUA hopes to continue to expand in the coming years. Being a member of the Canadian Political Science Student Association (CPSSA), the PSUA sends one of the larger delegates to the annual conference where students are able to network with other political science students all over Canada. By working tirelessly at fundraising, the PSUA strives to offer its members activities (such as the CPSSA conference) at an affordable price. In the future, the PSUA hopes to continue to add to the vitality of campus life by educating students in important political issues and offering a fun social alternative.

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WHY IS IT THAT A HOLIDAY CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF FROSTY AND THE ANNUAL BREAK-AND-ENTER OF HOMES WORLDWIDE BY AN OLD, HARRY FAT MAN IS THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR? THE DAZZLING DISTRACTIONS OF "PEACE," "GOODWILL," AND "EGGNOG" OFTEN KEEP US FROM REALIZING THERE'S ENOUGH CREEPY IN CHRISTMAS TO MAKE IT HALLOWEEN II. HOLIDAY LORE HAS ITS SHARE OF TRADITIONAL GHOSTS (A CHRISTMAS CAROL) AND MONSTROUS BEASTIES (THE GRINCH, THE ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN FROM RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER), BUT THE THING THAT REALLY MAKES YOUR CHRISTMAS ALL SCARY AND SUCH ARE THE BIZARRE AND CRASS CULTURA OBSCURAE FROM HOLIDAY SPECIALS ABOUT LEPRECHAUNS AND CHARO TO SLASH FICTIONS ABOUT STARKY AND HUTCH'S BEST HANNUKAH/CHRISTMAS EVER.



Christmas Specials

Watching Christmas specials, one may not learn a whole lot about that pesky elusive "Spirit of Christmas," but one does figure out a thing or two about the spirit of Christmas specials: namely, they're freaking nuts.

For every hand-holding singalong around a Christmas tree, there's a duet between Peewee and Charo (Peewee's Christmas Special). And for every reverent recitation of Christmasy scripture, you'll find a pack of growling wookies waiting to exchange "Life Day" presents (*The Star Wars Holiday Special*).

Perhaps there is no other company that understands the spirit of Christmas specials like Rankin Bass. For years, the wee folk of their animation studio were the Santa's workshop of Christmas specials. But along with the classics (*Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*, *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*) they also created a few cracktastic romps, of which there is none quite as heavy on the visions of sugar plums as 1985's *The Life and Adventures of Santa*

Claus.

Based on a story by L. Frank Baum (author of *Wizard of Oz*), *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* thrives on that staple of secular Xmas treats: borderline blasphemy. It turns out that in the world of Christmas specials, the Earth is watched by a council of immortals run by a tall, white-bearded leader known as the Great Ak. Ak may be all grey beards and heavenly robes like some sort of puppet vision of Cecil B. DeMille Old Testament splendor; but be sure, no Biblical reference is to be had in this movie. In Ak's world, the only birthday worth noting on 25 December, is Santa's.

The suggestion of a pagan Santa may ruffle a few viewers' Sunday bests, but it's the bewildering story of Santa Claus that really makes for a scary Christmas special experience. The story begins when one of Ak's legion of fairies finds a mortal baby in the woods. The baby is being taken care of by a loner (I), and the fairy promptly decides to adopt the baby, naming him Claus.

Once Claus has grown (his

childhood is shown through a clever montage) he is forced to go on a tour guided by Ak to see the mortal world. Like some sort of Dimension X version of the Ghost of Christmas Past, Ak takes Claus on a journey through mortal time by instructing the lad to hang on to his girldie. The audience is soon distracted from their puzzlement over Ak's bizarre fashion choices (who wears a girldie?) as they are presented with a harsh display of humanity. Showing Claus class struggles and violence, Ak makes Claus ashamed of the nature of humanity. But these feelings inspire the young upstart to charge out, grow a beard, and make a difference.

And making a difference in Santa's early days apparently meant kung fu-fighting crazy monsters. The rest of the special has the full-grown Claus fighting off the wickedness of creatures named Awgwas, monsters who hate how Claus makes people happy when he gives them gifts.

Awgwas and Ak may seem inappropriate for a Christmas special, but they're no stranger

than leprechauns, the subject of another Rankin Bass Xmas program, *The Leprechaun's Christmas Gold*. *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus*, despite its curious revision of Christmas past, at least had old Saint Nick to reassure audiences of its festive merit. The most seasonal elements of *Christmas Gold* however are a "Christmas Tree" under which a villainous banshee is buried, and a pile of gold that some covenly jolly, shoe-making leprechauns have been hoarding, presumably for Christmas. Perhaps you could take a long shot and guess the writers must have associated Ireland's general greenness with the colours of the Christmas season, but puzzlingly, the leprechauns in question don't actually live on the emerald isle, but on an uncharted island like some sort of Christmas-obsessed Irish refuge camp. In between making shoes and trying to keep the evil banshee from stealing their glittery swag, they sing a few songs and mutter endearing phrases like "don't chew your cabbage twice," while you reach for another glass of eggnog.



Have yourself a little Christmas

WORDS: Leah Collins,

Kelly FitzGibbon

and Joel Chury

"ILLUSTRATIONS": Leah Collins



Deck the halls with lots of creepy

NATIVITY SCENE: Linus must have done some heavy editing to his Christmasy gospel, because according to this "scale model" of the events of the very first present day, the three wise men who visited J'il Jesus were seriously afflicted by hormonal growth problems—either that, or they came traveling afar from such exotic locales as Munchkinland and Giantada, most likely riding the eerily large sheep parked around the manger.

SINGING HOLIDAY FROG: Part of that precious festive ecosystem, along with the flying reindeer and the wild snowman, is the singing holiday frog. While the other frogs are escaping death by hibernating the bitter winter away under layers of warm, mud, the holiday frog tirelessly sings that holiday classic, "Joy to the World," selflessly bringing a message of peace, love, and "Jeremiah was a bull frog" to the world.

ANIMATRONIC DEAN MARTIN: Nothing quite gets you as nostalgic for those Christmas days of yore like the thought of obnoxiously drunken relatives. A tipsy swagger, a half-full cocktail glass, a leering lazy eye, and a heart full of off-tuneful song are as full of holiday magic as Santa is as full of sugar cookies and pure awesome. So maybe that's why holiday buyers are being enticed to purchase that new icon of the holiday tradition, Mr Dean Martin. Martin always was the drunk uncle of the Rat Pack, and having a two-foot tall animatronic replica of the singer, festively dressed in a tux and woolly red scarf while he croons "Let it Snow," makes passed out Uncle Floyd, and Christmas, just a bit more hep. One can only hope that the rest of the Rat Pack soon become our new Xmas gods, and by next holiday season, Old Blue Eyes will have replaced old Saint Nick, driving his Cadillac pulled by a team of eight curvy Las Vegas showgirls around the world to deliver pure "cool" to all the little cats in Squiresville.



Holiday time on the Webbernet

EVIL CHRISTMAS KITTEN

[HTTP://WWW.MACDORK.COM/FIRSTPROJECT/FLASH/MOVIES/EVILCHRISTMASKITTEN.HTML](http://www.macdork.com/firstproject/flash/movies/evilchristmaskitten.html)

Evil, thy name is kitten. "Evil Christmas Kitten," to be precise—a flash animation brought to you by a mysterious pair of Satan's little helpers, "Simon and Jenny." The Jingle Cats may have started the holiday tradition of turning classic carols into the festive sound of souls roasting by hell's eternal fireside, but "Kitten" brings The JC's legacy into our new webometric age. While piercing your soul with angry demon-eyes, the star of "Kitten," who is fully lathered in white Christmassy suds, meows his rendition of a holiday classic. In an unholy voice that can only be described as Gollum on helium, the kitten sings "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and then proceeds to eat baby Jesus and his holy, baby cowboy hat. Okay, no, he doesn't eat baby Jesus. But he sure as Santa wants to.

HO HO HORROR

[WWW.HORROR-WOOD.COM/SCARYXMAS.HTM](http://www.horror-wood.com/scaryxmas.htm)

Holiday movies are frightening enough as it is, and as such it may seem a bit excessive to turn the traditional festive film into a slasher flick. But, there are plenty of ho ho horror movies to choose from at this website, from 1984's controversially classic *Silent Night, Deadly Night* (Santa is a mass murderer who kills his victims with everything from deer antlers to Christmas lights) to *Jack Frost* (a serial killer is mutated into a homicidal snowman. Not to be confused with the Michael Keaton film of the

same name, although the thought of having your dead father resurrected as a snowman, or even just the thought of having Michael Keaton and Kelly Preston as parents is infinitely more terrifying).

SLASH FICTION

Curl up by the fire and read some new slash fiction holiday classics:

Scrooge and Marley from Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* take their partnership very seriously:

[WWW.SQUIDGE.ORG/~PEJA/ACHRISTMASCAROL/SLASH.HTM](http://www.squidge.org/~peja/achristmascarol/slash.htm)

Stargy and Hutch get the best present of all, sweet, sweet love:

[WWW.RAINBOWFANFICTION.COM/POPULI.NET/STARGY.HTML](http://www.rainbowfanfiction.com/populi.net/stargy.html)

NSync's JC "Clouser" wants nothing more for Christmas than Lance Bass dressed up like a hobo: [WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/0H3/VISUALS2/LARA/ALLIWANTFORCHRISTMASISYOUTHML](http://www.angelfire.com/0h3/visuals2/lara/alliwantforchristmasisyouthtml)

EARL THE CHRISTMAS SQUIRREL

[WWW.SCARYSQUIRREL.ORG/SANTA/EARL](http://www.scarysquirrel.org/santa/earl)

Squirrel haters of the world go nuts over new holiday song, "Earl the Christmas Squirrel." Listen to the song and find out why Earl, (a member of Santa's holiday army who collects nuts yearlong for our Christmas treats) is another word for Satan among the birdwatching world.

SCARY★ Christmas



CHRISTMAS "CRAFTS": Whoever said homemade gifts are more "meaningful" than the store bought variety should be fed to Santa Claus! It may be that it's "the thought that counts," but more so that think-power should be used to fuel some of the terrifying hand-wrought items that haunt the undermeats of our Christmas trees. One such example is this holiday painting, graciously given to the Gateway by former Editor-in-Chief Dave Alexander's mom, Saint Nick, here imaginatively portrayed as a fake eyelash-wearing troll baby, is being punched in the mind (Santa's mind naturally being located in the magical source of his Christmas spirit, his heart) by a mysterious fist, seemingly coming from another dimension of Christmas time and space. One can only hope that the Santa in the picture will use the sparkly fairy star wand he holds in his mittened paw to defeat the mysterious disembodied fist before he and all the shiny high-ticket items he stands for are forever replaced by a gift-giving tradition of fruit cakes and confusing troll paintings.

NASCAR ORNAMENTS: Remember that crisp December day when dad got really upset because you and sis were always stuffing your faces with rum balls and watching those darn Christmas specials? And he got all veins-popping-out-of-his-neck mad and started threatening to donate your new Christmas puppy to lepers and to feed mom to Santa's reindeer if you didn't turn off *Prancer* and let him watch some sporting entertainment, like that NASCAR race he taped a month ago? Good times, good times. And now you can commemorate those enchanted days with a whole series of NASCAR Christmas tree ornaments: miniature replicas of angry dad's favorite racers to hang from your tannenbaum to symbolize the peace, joy and high-octane days of thunder that make up the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE WAL-MART: Let's not kid ourselves: the holidays are not about peace, goodwill, or celebrating the birth of Frosty, they're about buying stuff, and lots of it. Which is why it's always nice to have a festive reminder of pure commercialism around as a holiday decoration. Christmas villages, those miniature replicas of snow-blanketed Victorian "towns" that your grandma collects so that she can feel like a King Kong or Power Rangers Megazord-like supervoman during the season of present-worship, can now be blessed with the addition of their own mini light-up, snow-blanketed Wal-Mart. One can only hope these mini Wal-Marts come stocked with mini guns so that the mini villagers can end their mini sorrows at seeing a hideous box store taint their idealistic life of train rides, caroling, and fleeing the 100-foot octogonarian that lords over them.



SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 27 November 2003

THE PEP RALLY

Hockey

The still undefeated **Bears** (11-0-1) who, due to some unexplained phenomenon—probably Martian mind-control rays—sadly did not win both games last weekend, return home to meet the UBC Thunderbirds this weekend. The Thunderbirds, who are bigger losers than Gateway Sports Editor Joel Chury, will be fricassated at 7:30pm both Friday and Saturday in the newly named "Mini-Rexall Place," more commonly called Clare Drake Arena.

As well, Bobby Stauffer is back on the mighty **CJSR FM88**, calling the game on Friday with the always Sunny Scott Zerr.

Basketball

Taking a brief respite from hibernating, the **Bears** (3-3) storm into the aptly named Main Gym this weekend to tie the University of Saskatchewan Huskies (2-4) to a sled and yell "Mush!" repeatedly. They get them hitched up Friday at 8:15pm then run the lidarod on Saturday again at 8:15pm.

After being released from their stint at the zoo where they disappointed officials by refusing to mate, the **Pandas** (1-5) get ready to bring it with the illini' street ball stylz against those same University of Saskatchewan Huskies, except of course for the fact that this version of the Huskies are women, we hope, though it's sometimes hard to tell with Saskatchewanites. At any rate, our Pandas meet the "Tidy" Huskies at 6:30pm on both Friday and Saturday.

Volleyball

There will be great suffering in Burnaby this weekend, as the **Pandas** (7-1) head to Vancouver Jr to meet the eerily-named Simon Fraser University Clan. The poor, misguided river-finding explorer (Fraser) don't know what hit him 8pm Friday, nor again at 8pm Saturday.

The **Bears** (6-0) meanwhile are heading out to the land of, well, nothing remotely important, as they take on the University of Manitoba Bisons this weekend. Our boys will be spiking like a pair of stiletto heels Friday at 7pm and again Saturday at 7pm, because the schedule makers are unimaginative.



FILE PHOTO: IRLSTE

Swimming/Wrestling

Both the grizzled **warriors** of the squared circle and the sleek, aquatic **fropeople** (Microsoft Word synonym for 'swimmer') are in non-Conference meets this weekend. The wrestlers mosey on down to Manitoba this weekend, while the swimmers splash their way to Saskatoon for watery goodness.

The Same Thing I Always Write Here

Though at presstime results were unavailable, it's quite obvious the Oil are coming off a win in Detroit to face the dog-kicking, baby-eating, generally evil Avalanche on Friday and the toothless, heartless, gutless Sharks on Sunday.

I'm ridiculously low on witty remarks, but I do know one thing my friends... even my desperate, unfunny ass does not suck as much as Joel Chury and his sucktastic Calgary Flames. Word.

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Overrated Sports "Writer"



SETTING THE HEIGHT OF THE BAR Pandas and Bears track and field teams will decide their travel squads this weekend in the Buttedome. FILE PHOTO: KATIE TWEEDE

Last chance for track and field hopefuls

Annual Last Chance Meet this Saturday in the Buttedome to determine traveling track team

ANNA OTBRIEN
Sports Writer

Before the Buttedome gets changed into an oversized exam room covered in desks and stress-induced sweat, the track will be used for its intended purposes this Saturday, as the Bears and Pandas track teams host the Last Chance Meet.

Track fans will be treated to intense competition amongst varsity track hopefuls, as the competition will determine which athletes will be a part of the upcoming season's final travelling team. "This meet is a great opportunity for the coaching staff to evaluate the talent on the team," said head track coach Georgetown Reid. "We're putting the final building blocks in place for our

Canada West and CIS season."

This year's meet, which has annually been a two-day event, has been condensed into a single day. The meet kicks off at 10am with the 400m run, followed by the 1500m. The afternoon track events include the 60m, 200m, and 800m races, and hurdles. In the field category, the meet includes shot put, long and triple jump, high jump and weight throw. 3000m running and pole vault have been omitted from the venue.

"The first meet is always telling," said Bears captain Jamie Johnson. "It's fun to see who the new people are and what they can do." In sprints alone, there are 16 men trying out for spots on the 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams. "It's an extremely competitive field," comments men's sprint coach,

Ron Thompson. Among the competitors in the 400m is Antoine Bousombo, who competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics. "Antoine is running the 400m for the first time indoors. It should be a treat to watch," said Thompson.

"Tickets for the venue are unnecessary, as the event is free to all who show up. Fans can stroll into the Buttedome any time they want, either grabbing seats in the bleachers or for a better view, or standing right along side the track.

Expect to see some fast times from the middle- and long-distance athletes who have just come off a successful cross-country season. So come out and watch some track: it costs nothing, and it's guaranteed to be a tough and thrilling competition.

Struggling hoop Bears hope to bounce back

ERIN LOVAM
Sports Writer

After only five losses in conference play all of last year, the Golden Bears basketball team has already dropped three matches in two weekends, a dry spell that has left them with a 3-3 record going into the last weekend of play before the Christmas break.

"It's been kinda hard on our team," said second-year guard Tyson Jones about the trouble finding wins in the last few weeks. "This team is not used to losing. We're one of the top three teams in the country in my opinion, and I think the last two weekends showed that we can't let our guard down; every team is going to be coming at us."

Last weekend, the Bears won the Friday game, but lost Saturday, both in Calgary against a squad which is nationally ranked fourth (the Bears are ranked fifth in the country). Two weekends ago, road losses came in a west coast swing against UBC and the University of Victoria. Needless to say, returning to the Main Gym will be a welcome change.

"There is a huge home court advantage," third-year post Brandon Park explained, "Out in [Vancouver] and Victoria, you're in a hostile environment where there's more pressure. It's nice to come home."

Demands of higher tempo and more work have been the coaches' mantra in recent practices, as lackadaisical play and turnovers have resulted in the team's lack of recent wins. "We know we need to work harder," said Park. "We've been slow in practice, throwing balls away and it's the same in games. As soon as we eliminate ridiculous little mental mistakes, we'll turn this around."

The Bears' chance to change their losing ways comes this weekend against Saskatchewan, who sits at a record of 2-4. Though Saskatchewan isn't one of the premier teams in the conference, they're also not one to be taken lightly.

"We don't want to get too overconfident and slack off," warned guard Phil Sudol, a third-year engineering student who is averaging nine rebounds a game, good for second in the Canada West. "We want to stay focused so that we don't

let up, especially playing [the U of S] at home." Focusing on the future games at hand is one way for the ballers to get past this rough stretch. If anything, this dry spell is better now than during the playoff run. Hopefully this means that the kinks are worked out early enough in the season that the only way they go from here is up.

For a better shot than the boys put on in four games on the road, the games begin anew in the Main Gym this Friday and Saturday at 8:15pm.



NOT SO FAST The Bears already have three losses, compared to last season's season total of five. FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

Canadians have a right be proud of Heritage Classic



JOSH KIENNER

Sports Commentary

Goddamn, do I love Canada. I'll admit it's far from perfect—we haven't quite managed to figure out that whole "two party rule" thing too well yet, we possess international power roughly equal to that of a fluorescent light bulb, and our national animal is a clover. There are a few skeletons in the closet, indeed.

But only in Canada—sweet, geographically isolated, sparsely populated, homeless-bum-infested Canada—would 60 000 fans go out and freeze the bejesus out of themselves to watch Wayne and all the old boys on the bus suit up for a glorified street hockey game followed by an NHL game. The Mega Stars Game lasted just long enough to blink a few times and ask the guy next to me if Butterbean somehow got a hold of Dave Hunter's jersey. The beloved Oilers lost their real NHL tilt, but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

Why? Because the Heritage Classic was a perfect example of Canadians in their element—simultaneously freezin', boozin', and watchin' hockey.

Never have I attended an event with the atmosphere of the Heritage Classic, although a Cradle of Filth concert came

dangerously close. Commonwealth was a giant communal ball of spirit, pride and smuggled contraband, and, wow, was it fantastic.

Numerous moments spring to mind when I try to describe the day. First, there was the ubiquitous Commonwealth drunk sitting two rows in front of us who said "fuck" so much it seemed that that was his way of exhaling. And instead of people telling him to pipe down like they would at most Oilers games, or beating the shit out of him like they would at an Eskimos game, they laughed—and maybe even said a few "fucks" for him; 'twas magical.

Then there were the jets. The nine Snowbirds and one fighter jet that flew over Commonwealth constituted Canada's most aggressive show of military force since WWII, and it was possibly the first time in my life that I've ever been at all proud of anything remotely military-related. Some thought it may be a security risk to commit 67 per cent Canada's air assets to the stadium that day, but the Snowbirds said "to hell with Baffin Island!" and came anyway, impressing the hell out of the crowd in the process.

And finally, there was the Great One. Thanks in part to the fact that I grew up in the suburbs of Edmonton, and to the fact that I'm gay, I have biggest man-crush ever on Wayne Gretzky. So when he skated onto the ice, even the fact that I'm not actually gay couldn't help me—along with the rest of Commonwealth—from practically having a coronary."

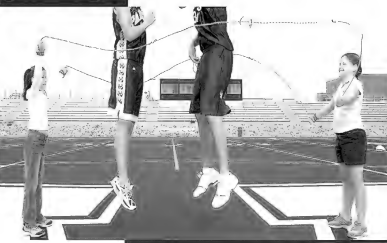
I think that part of what made the Heritage Classic so special is the fact that it happened in Canada, and these anecdotes illustrate that. Only in Canada would everyone put up with and explosive-sweating running in -20C weather. Only Canadians would be wowed by a single, semi-wobbly fighter jet lumbering over top of them. And only Canadians would sit outside in mind- and wang-numbing weather to watch their heroes skate one more time.

The Heritage Classic wasn't only extraordinary because it was the biggest NHL game ever, or because of the unprecedented amount of booze smuggled, or even because Gretzky played. It was special because it was so uniquely Canadian—something that for once, we could be the best at.

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Main Gym

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vs. Saskatchewan, 6:30 pm
Saturday, Nov. 29
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Bears Basketball
Main Gym

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Bring on
the future



Blush looks forward to life as real estate rockstars

Blush
with guests
Red's
Friday, 28 November

JEREMY SHRAGGE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Old folks are often fond of saying that "a penny saved is a penny earned." On the other hand, there are those people who, in attempting to follow this glib, geriatric prattle, have discovered that "you get what you pay for" is much more sage advice. One such unfortunate soul is Chris "Wheels" Weighell, drummer for up-and-coming Winnipeg rockers Blush.

"I'll never rent another no-name trailer again—that's for sure," says Weighell of an unfortunate touring moment from back in the mid-1990s. On the outskirts of Saskatoon, Weighell learnt that frugality should be applied in moderation when it comes to hiring equipment transportation. "We borrowed a friend's trailer, but little did we know the wheels were two different sizes," he explains. "It flipped on us. Luckily it was packed so tightly with gear that nothing could move; it just rolled over on the highway. Doing 90, the thing flipped all over the place and I think all that got broken was a knob on a guitar amp."

He adds, "We tried to save a few bucks that way but it wasn't worth it." But that was the idea, and this is now. A veteran of the Winnipeg indie scene for over ten years, Weighell has sat behind the kit for a who's who of Southern Manitoba rock misadventures: The Shivers, Grooveyard, Hot Soul Food, Atomic Candy, Big Orange, Teaser, Dynamo Hum, Friction Love Corp (hey, they sold 1000 discs in 1995) amongst others.

In 2001, during a renaissance of The Shivers,

Weighell teamed up with vocalist Glen Davies, and, along with journeyman musicians Paulo Neta (guitar) and Steve O'Dell (bass), began composing songs as a side project.

Two years later, Blush is doing well with their grungy, James Addiction style rock riffs. Since Canada Day, the band has had a single selected for local station Power 97's Class of 2003 compilation, which sold off the shelves at A&B Sound locations around Winnipeg; they have been the half-time entertainment at a U of Manitoba Bison's game; and their debut album, *Crowded Alone*, has been in shops since October.

"I guess the chemistry wasn't there in the old groups. We've got a couple of new members now and the chemistry seems to be right; everything seems to have fallen into place a lot better."

CHRIS WEIGHELL

Ever the bridesmaid, Weighell is cautiously optimistic that the mix of talent and creativity might finally be right. "Bands don't last long and you can pretty much figure out right away whether it's going anywhere or not," he notes. "I guess the chemistry wasn't there in the old groups. We've got a couple of new members now and the chemistry seems to be right; everything seems to have fallen into place a lot better."

When asked what the key differences are this time around versus The Shivers/Dynamo Hum/Friction Love Corp era, Weighell notes: "The



writing styles have evolved. And also one of the main writers in the band is one of the new guys, so there's new ideas involved. This time around we got ourselves a really good producer [Brandon Friesen] and he was able to bring all the ideas we had to life."

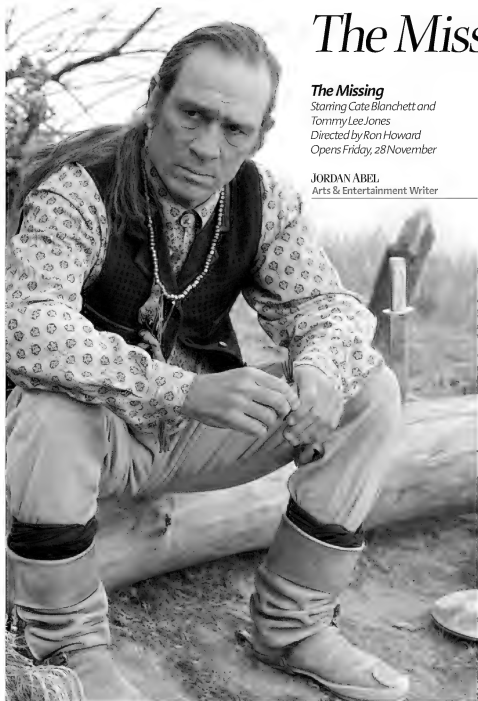
With Adam Winters having replaced O'Dell in the rhythm section, Blush is ready to start touring—well, sort of.

The problem of a prolonged road swing, says Weighell, is getting time off work. "We're all

holding down different jobs, so we can only leave for little spurts here and there.

"We're hoping that eventually the band will take over. We're working it real hard now; we're doing everything we can to get it off the ground and if it starts to fly we can justify leaving our other jobs to support it," he adds.

When queried as to his primary vocation and that of his band mates, Weighell says laughing: "Well, three of us play in other bands; two of us are in real estate." Ah, the life of the rockstar.



The Missing doesn't miss a thing

The Missing
Starring Cate Blanchett and
Tommy Lee Jones
Directed by Ron Howard
Opens Friday, 28 November

JORDAN ABEL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Sometimes there is nothing more boring than frantic-paced action sequences, melodramatic chase scenes and unimaginably realistic effects. And for many films in the thriller genre, relying too heavily on action and not enough on actual dialogue and character development is a surefire way to pummel irreparably off the cliff of terribleness. Luckily, and surprisingly, *The Missing* is definitely not one of those movies.

The Missing is the story of Maggie Gilkeson (Cate Blanchett), a young mother raising her two daughters on a desolate farm, who is swept up into a race against time after her eldest born, Lilly (Even Rachel Wood), is kidnapped. Maggie is forced to reunite with her own estranged father (Tommy Lee Jones) in an attempt to save her daughter from the psychopathic killer (Eric Schweig) and his band of brutal cult desperados, who have left a trail of other brutal killings in their wake.

Jones plays a particularly honest and dynamic character that is one of the most believable the big screen has seen in some time.

Set in the snowbanks of the desolate American Southwest, the movie follows Blanchette and Jones as the two move towards the bitter heat of the Mexican border, where they believe the kidnappers are taking Lilly.

Along the voyage, the powerful and impeccable acting of Blanchette and Jones truly shines as their relationship develops along the way. Maggie gradually reaccepts her father, and during a particularly powerful scene, a long moment of silence signals the two have come to an understanding.

Jones plays a particularly honest and dynamic

character that is one of the most believable the big screen has seen in some time. When Jones first sees his daughter Maggie after their long separation, the silent tears that run down his weathered cheeks are beautiful, and the fact that his character is a flawed hero only serves to make his metamorphosis into a martyr even more emotional. Although he admits his initial reasons for returning to help Maggie were self-centred, it becomes obvious as the film plays out that Jones genuinely wants to help her. Blanchette goes through an equally stirring transformation as her character changes from a meek motherly figure to a powerful woman who seems nearly unstoppable in her quest to save her daughter, even in the face of death.

Blanchette's character also presents an empowering feminine message, which is brought to the forefront as the film progresses through the physically trying aspects of the chase. Her original reliance on Jones for leadership and support dwindles as she becomes more empowered, thus blurring the stereotypical boundaries of gender that are common to thriller flicks where males are predominately the strongest characters.

There are also several intricate details in the performances that make this thriller very different from your average action flick; even during fast-paced sequences where arrows and bullets soar through the air, the subtlety of drama between the leads keeps this movie fresh and saves it from falling into the meaningless monotony of explosions and violence into which so many other films sink.

Regardless of whether you're looking for action or drama, there are a lot of great moments in *The Missing*, and the blend between the two is what makes it incredible. In the end, it's a thriller that is both refreshing and spectacular, and definitely worth checking out even if you don't normally like the melodrama of films in the thriller genre.

Reunion brings back '80s jokes, but where have all the punchlines gone?



National Lampoon's Thanksgiving Reunion

Starring Bryan Cranston, Judge Reinhold, Penelope Ann Miller and Hallie Todd
Directed by Neal Israel
Opens Friday, 28 November

MIKOLAJ MOSS
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After you're all tripphopped out on turkey this weekend from celebrating our southern cousin's Thanksgiving holiday, go watch the Dolphins slaughter the Cowboys instead of even considering seeing the latest instalment of the nostalgic National Lampoon's series.

Thanksgiving Reunion pits the most outlandish, backward Idaho hippies on the screen against a well-to-do Orange County type. But of course, there is a twist: they're family. While searching for a sense of family, "anesthesiologist to the stars" Dr Mitch Snider (Judge Reinhold) suddenly receives a letter from long-lost cousin Woodrow Snider, so he packs up the family for Thanksgiving. Woody (amitably played by Bryan Cranston) is there to welcome the family on his washing machine-covered front lawn, which foregrounds his seemingly Beetlejuice-inspired eccentric home. Together the two partake in a shooting, a hot shower

scene and several other not-funny scenarios. Unfortunately, the shower scene, which is meant to be a spoof of the famous killing in the classic Hitchcock horror flick *Psycho*, succeeds only in providing gratuitous disgust.

Woodrow's better half Pauline is played as a "whacked-out broad" by Penelope Ann Miller. A woman who doesn't believe in killing animals, she waits until a turkey with TB keels over to have dinner. Sure, it's an off-the-wall idea, but it certainly isn't funny, and neither is much else about the film. Jill Snider, a society gal married to a doctor with a big house, a cranky uncle and a few oddball children round out the cast and supply a few clever lines, but certainly not enough to make this movie palatable.

As is common with the Vacations series produced by National Lampoon during the last 20 years, there's a great push for everyone to be one great big family at the end. The latter figure who is disgruntled by the twisted turn of events will always be remembered as the role cultivated by Chevy Chase. Unfortunately, in this movie Reinhold fails to steal the spotlight like his predecessor, even if the film's director continues to follow the plotline set by National Lampoon's previous films.

On one hand, we should be thankful for director Neal Israel. If it wasn't for this man we would not have such stars as the aforementioned Chevy Chase or John Candy, but the man who also co-created the *Police Academy* series has truly fallen flat with this attempt. After the first semi-amusing Britney Spears joke in the 90-minute feature, the film loses its edge and you hang on only to snicker at the random jokes thrown sparsely in. *Thanksgiving Reunion* quite simply fails to delve into today's mentality and more than anything is a throwback to the now-stale style of comedy that was popular before most of us were born. Using every possible stereotype, except maybe a *Will and Grace* style homosexual, it seems that the film can't even do that right to connect with the current viewing audience.

The dated writing here is what really disappoints and forces the cast—whose impressive resumes include the *Beverly Hills Cop* series, *Rat Patrol*, *Hilltop High* and *Malcolm in the Middle*—to founder helplessly in a lacklustre and lack-humour work not worthy of your weekend's time.

Oscar Wilde brings English wit to the Walderdale

The Importance Of Being Earnest

The Walderdale
Opens Thursday, 27 November

DAVE BERRY
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's a good year for fans of witty English playwrights; hot on the heels of a Citadel production of George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, the Walderdale is set to bring theatregoers Oscar Wilde's classic satire *The Importance Of Being Earnest*.

And if the number of actors who auditioned for this play is any indication, there must be quite a few fans of English wit out there, even though old Wilde has been dead for decades. "We auditioned 50 people in six hours; there was a huge, huge interest in this play, so we could have cast it over four times easily," says an almost flabbergasted Wendy Pope, a longtime Walderdale member and director of the upcoming production.

Not that the appeal of the play should be a surprise; even Pope herself admitted to jumping at the chance to direct Wilde. "I am a huge Oscar Wilde fan and this is one of my favorite plays ever. I think it's the wittiest play ever written in English, even counting Will Shakespeare," she adds with a light laugh.

Earnest centres around two Victorian-era clunks: an irresponsible hedonist named Algernon Moncreff (Nelson Niwa) and an earnest lawyer named Jack Worthing (Doug Verdine). Both "Algy" and Jack make up an imaginary acquaintance that allows them to escape their responsibilities back home.

Algernon has Mr Bunbury, who is a dreadful invalid that allows him to escape his relatives at a moment's notice, and Jack has his brother Ernest, who is a troubleome rascal that allows him frequent visits to the city. A problem occurs when Jack—posing as his brother Ernest—asks for the hand of Algernon's cousin Gwendolen (Lana Bidel), who accepts and confides that she could only ever marry a man named Ernest. To compound matters further, Algernon has visited Jack's country estate and, also posing as Ernest, asked for Jack's ward Cecily's hand in marriage. What follows is a parody of English aristocracy and superficiality as only Wilde can do it.

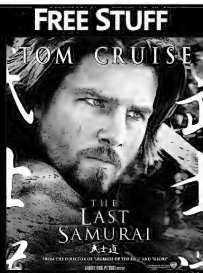


SUPPLIED BY DOUG BERNKMAN

Because of its timeless themes, Pope feels the play could easily be transported to the modern day, but the directorial staff decided to keep it as a period piece for aesthetic value. "One kind of hates to give up the chance for actors to dress in those costumes and designers to design them and the set people to do something 19th century," she remarks longingly.

But, of course, those wonderful period costumes are only there to highlight the performers. "It is just a remarkable cast," beams Pope about the actors, who range from 18-year-old Georgina Beatty to Mary Glenfield, who is in her 80s and has been a member of the Walderdale since its inception 45 years ago. "We had such a great time," recalls Pope, referring to both the rehearsal and the extensive research that was done.

And while a great cast and crew helps, Pope probably would have fun no matter what happened. She loves Wilde so much she refers to him as "Oscar" at every opportunity and when asked for her favorite Wilde quote, has trouble choosing one. "There's so many. Some of my favorite lines are in this play," she says exasperated. However, in what can only be good news for those going to see the play, finally adds "Okay, I'll tell you my absolutely favorite Oscar Wilde quote that is not from the show: 'Everything in moderation, including moderation.'"



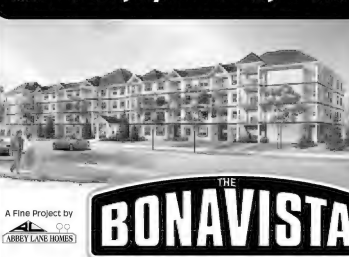
The Last Samurai features Captain Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) as a man adrift. Once he risks his life for honour and country, but, in the years since the Civil War, the world has changed. Frustration has replaced courage, self-interest has taken the place of sacrifice and honour is nowhere to be found. The movie opens in theatres on Friday, 5 December but we want you to see it early! You and a guest are invited to a promotional screening on Wednesday 3 December in Silver City at West Edmonton Mall. Just drop by the Gateway office on 3-04 SUB after 1pm.

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The House of Sand and Fog is the story of Massoud Amir Behrani (Sir Ben Kingsley) who is living a lie to fulfill a dream. Once a member of the Shah of Iran's elite inner circle, he has brought his family to America to build a new life. Despite a pretense of continued affluence, he is barely making ends meet until he sees his opportunity in the auction of a house being sold for back taxes. It is a terrible mistake. The film opens in theatres 26 December, but we want you to see it early! You and a guest are invited to a promotional screening on 11 December. Just drop by the Gateway office on 3-04 SUB after 1pm and tell the entertainment about the last time you had a dream shattered. (SUBJECT TO CLASSIFICATION)

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Pearl Jam
Live at the Garden
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JOEL CHURRY
 Sports Editor

Moments after the band finishes their rendition of the Dead Boys' "Sonic Reducer" with the accompaniment of their childhood idols the Buzzcocks, Pearl Jam faces a booing crowd. "If it weren't for the Buzzcocks, who knows, we might sound like Good Charlotte," jokes front-man Eddie Vedder, as he backs in the venom spat on stage by the mere mention of the pop-punkers. "Oh, they're good, but [their sound] tastes like a popsicle that's been stuck up somebody's ass," he adds, restoring the faith of the crowd.

These statements ring heavy on the Seattle rockers' new two-disc DVD, *Pearl Jam: Live at the Garden*. Like the minimalist rocker image Pearl Jam has been notorious for since bowing out of the MTV market, this DVD is likewise a pure concert endeavour; there are no bells, whistles, or giant goat heads hanging over the modest stage. There's just the band and guest appearances from unlikely artists such as the aforementioned Buzzcocks and Ben Harper.

Now twelve years since the release of their defining album *Ten*, Pearl Jam has lingered as one of those bands that continue to have a strong following, despite their alternative marketing plan. The band's refusal to be in a video adds to the jarring nature of their appearance in the DVD; they're older now and Vedder is no longer the plaid-adorned grunge rocker that performed the crazy crowd-dive in the video for "Even Flow" so many years ago. He and his bandmates have realized their job is no longer that of being trend-setters, but just a five-piece that plays rock n' roll.

This is a rock DVD which is completely removed from any mindless distractions that could pull the listener away from the music, and the 16 presentation of the singular concert captured packs a bigger punch than even Vedder's outlandish commentary about the pop-punkification of the music industry.



Michael Jackson
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DAN KASZOR
 Production Editor

With new allegations of child molestation, it seems that Michael Jackson is a man who is falling apart,

yet his marketing team is in the midst of producing a media orgy to promote the release of a new set of his products. Among those releases is a DVD showcasing his classic videos, which itself is pretty deficient.

The videos on this DVD reminded you of how cool Jackson used to be and how he's slowly degenerated over the last two decades. In "Beat It," he was a jive-talking smooth criminal who the girls wanted and the guys wanted to be. In his latest video he's playing the same character, but his face looks like it's held together with silly putty and his offscreen persona becomes too hard to ignore.

The DVD's content is almost as sad as the King of Pop's current state; it's just a collection of the same music videos you've already seen a thousand times and there are absolutely no bonus features. This disc is really so bare bones that it can't really be recommended to anyone.



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Elephant doesn't point fingers

Elephant

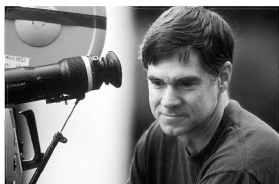
Starring Alex Frost, Eric Deulen, John Robinson, John McFarland, Elias McConnell, Jordan Taylor and Carrie Finklee
Written and Directed by Gus Van Sant
Gameau Theatre
Opens Friday, 28 November

DAN KASZOR
Production Editor

Where were you on 20 April, 1999? Most of you probably had a normal day at high school, but when you headed home and turned on the television, you found out something horrible had happened: two young men burst into their school with high-powered assault weapons and killed thirteen students and staff before turning the guns on themselves.

After the murderous rampage in the mountain town of Littleton, Colorado, the media scrambled to place the blame on something, anything that could explain the killers' motives: movies, video games, gun culture, and irresponsible parents. *Elephant*, on the other hand, forcibly rejects explaining what made the two young students into mass murderers; instead, Van Sant shows the incident at distance, allowing the viewer to come to their own conclusions. There are no subtle judgments made in this film; almost every scene is composed of long takes and a medium shot, allowing for an analytical view of all the young lives portrayed. That isn't to say that you don't begin to feel for certain students in *Elephant*, just that Van Sant doesn't try to do that feeling for you by creating situations and style that would force you to emot. Instead, the performances of the young cast, their natural speech patterns and humanly characteristics win you over.

What is apparent in all of the characters; even the least likeable ones, is the inherent tragedy of it all, the looming sense that all these lives will soon be senselessly cut short: the self-conscious girl will never be able to have a real connection with anyone, the cliquy bulimic girls will never find out what real friendship is like, the photographer will never sell his portfolio and the jock's girlfriend will never find out if she's pregnant.



ACTION Gus Van Sant gets sad on the set of *Elephant*.

Or maybe they will because, excepting a few cases, *Elephant* never gives any finality to any of the shootings. In the real Columbine shootings, there were more people injured by gunfire than there were killed, and the movie never lets on which, if any of the victims, survive their encounters with hail of bullets. The film ends with one of the killers taunting two students with a rifle, the camera pulls back and the credits roll. Death is implied but not actualized.

As such, the audience is left with a gaping wound of its own. There is no closure, no reason, no purpose; the world of the school has simply been ripped apart and, just like the people from Littleton, the audience has to find a closure of their own.

Van Sant is careful to refrain from giving the audience something to blame the violence on. The killers are portrayed as having all the habits that the media has lumped on them: they're antisocial, have a fetish for guns, play violent video games and have absentee parents, but none of these things seem to create or excuse their violence. If anything, they seem more like symptoms of whatever makes them enact their wrath rather than causes.

What Van Sant has done is create a sense that no one can ever truly understand what made those killers tick, and that all of the blame and search for reason in this case are merely our society looking to patch the wound that Columbine tore in us.

of anything but crap? Hardly.

But in the history of mammoth bands worthy of the monster moniker, AC/DC reigns in as one of the top, and this DVD proves why with its footage of their massive, legendary gig at the August 1991 Monsters of Rock Festival in Castle Donnington, Leicestershire.

Their third time as headliners for this festival, the Aussie lads with bollocks of brass put on a set so brilliant that many of the numbers eventually found their way onto the group's 1992 live release. Originally shot in 35mm Panavision, this manual, amphetamine rush of a show has been digitally restored and remastered in 5.1 Dolby surround sound.

Most unforgettable is the haunting chants of "Angus! Angus! Angus!" heard by thousands of audience members as lead guitarist and certifiable nutter Angus Young trips into the opening trill of "Thunderstruck" to start off the night.

Other impressive highlights include

the appearance of the inflatable Rosie balloon that is unleashed for the performance of "Whole Lotta Rosie." This lingerie-clad, Rubenesque fuck-me doll of Olympian proportions is a vivid yet comical manifestation of the song's lyrics "a whole lotta woman... weighing in at nineteen stone." Not to be skipped is Angus' wildly entertaining, frenetic guitar solo at the end of "Let There Be Rock." And, of course, what would an AC/DC concert be without the earthshaking cannonade of the group's signature finale, "For Those About to Rock (We Salute You)."

The sound quality and letterbox presentation of *Live at Donnington* are fantastic and this DVD is the ideal tool for getting psyched up for the big game or priming ahead of a night out with the lads on Whyte Ave. The main performance, which is two hours long and shot with 26 cameras, is some of the most magnificent and electrifying rock and roll footage in existence and a yuletide must-buy for any fan of rock's supreme monster.



AC/DC
Live At Donnington
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JEREMY SHRAGG
Arts & Entertainment Writer

One of the greatest things about Rock and Roll is the fact that certain bands—mostly do to their selling volume, songwriting and a ballsy stage presence—are considered as "monsters" of rock. To put this unique feature in perspective consider the following: could one seriously call Bach a "monster" of Baroque, or Beethoven a "monster" of Classical, or Celine Dion a "monster"

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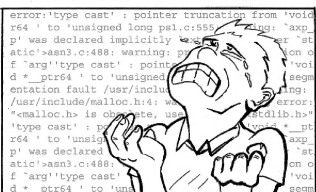
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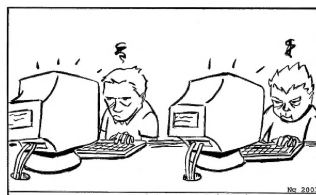
*'Twas the night before due date
And all through the labs,
Sat the students of Comp Sci
All looking quite sad.*



*Some students fretted,
Some students cried,
As the computers denied them
No matter how hard they tried.*



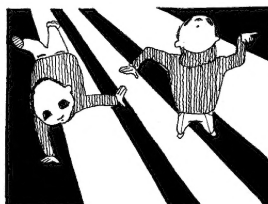
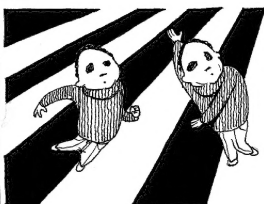
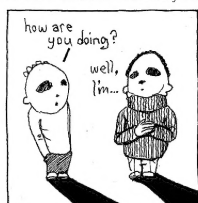
*For their weekend was passing
And so their lives too,
As they sat there like zombies
In their perverse high-tech zoo.*



*So remember this well,
It will bring you great luck;
The moral of this story is
Computers SUCK!*



WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS by Eric Uhlir



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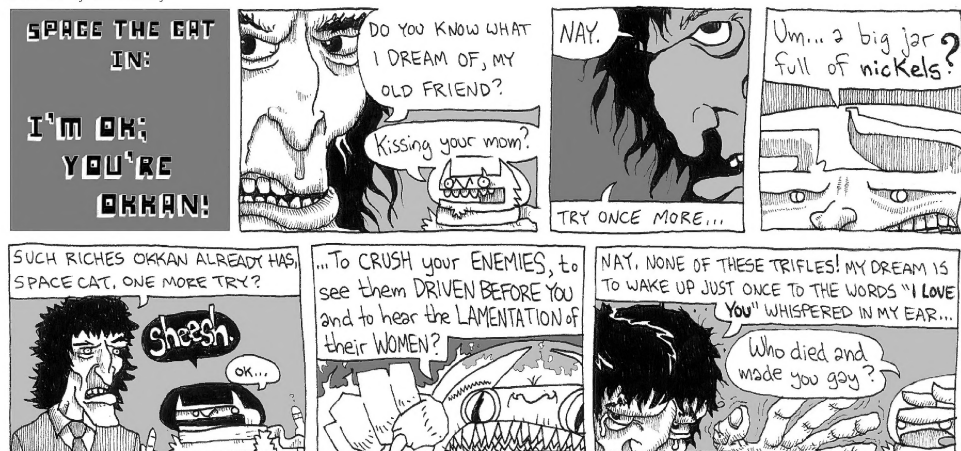
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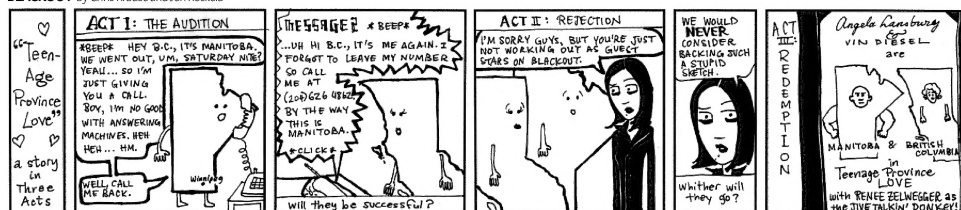
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